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Library Publicity, by <i>The Library Publicity Sub-Committee of the S.A.L.A.</i>	33
Personalia	40
Some Observations on Libraries and Coloured People in the Cape Town Municipality, by <i>M.A. Warley and H. Holdsworth</i> ...	41
Senate Debate on National Library Policy	45
Library Notes and News	57
Libraries in War Time	58
Books for the Troops	59
Emendatum	59
The Library Vacation School, Durban, by <i>Nancy Courtney Acutt</i> ...	60
Publications Received	61
South African Libraries, by <i>D. H. Varley</i>	63
Examination Results	65
December Examinations — Correspondence Courses... ..	66
Sub-Committee on Library Publicity	66
School and Children's Library Section... ..	67

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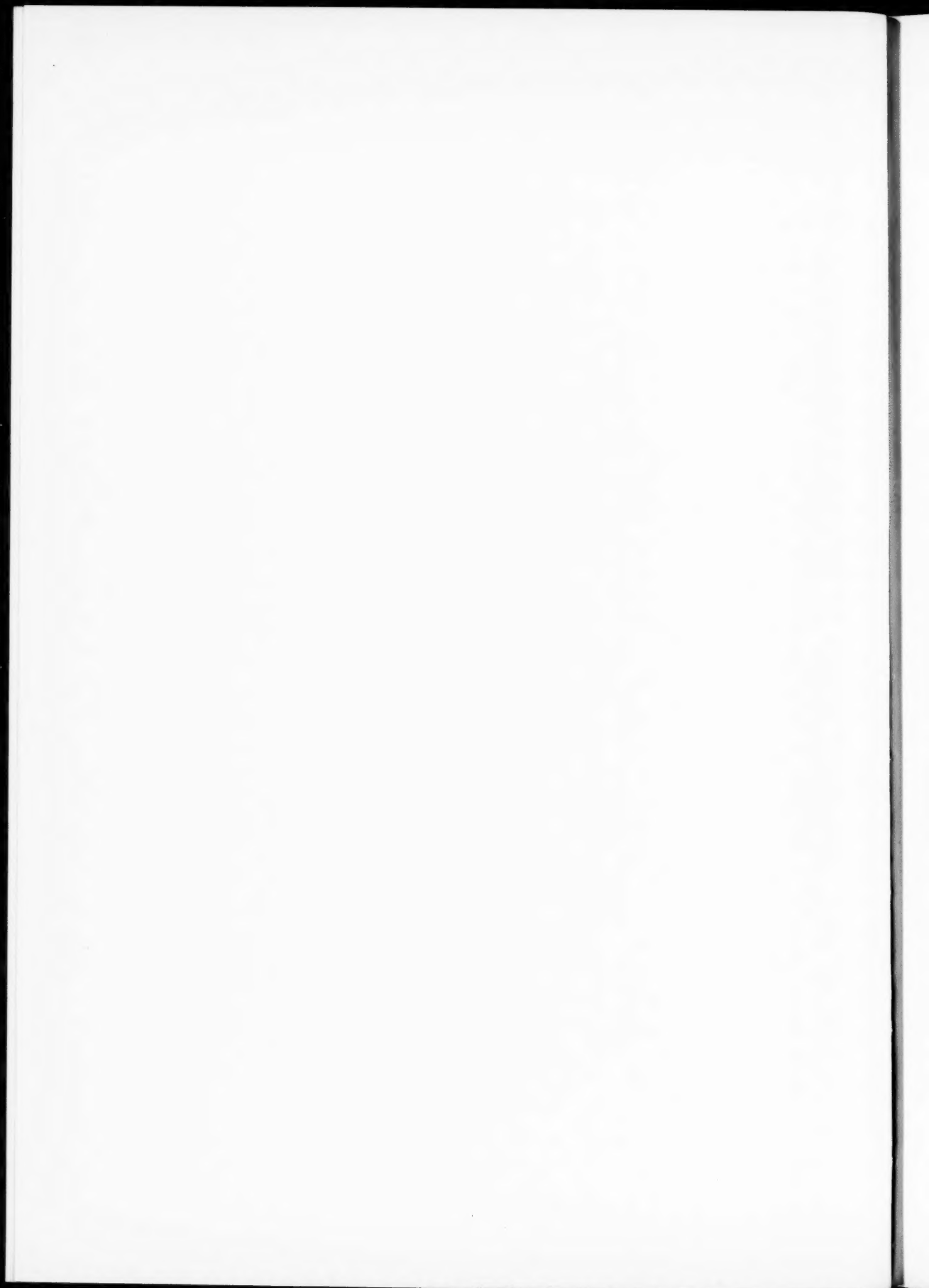
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Vol. 9

OCTOBER 1941

No. 2



SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

Die Offisiële Orgaan van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging

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No. 2

LIBRARY PUBLICITY

THE purpose of this Handbook¹ is to make suggestions which may be a guide to librarians, and to all others concerned with library organization and administration, as to some methods which may be employed in giving publicity to their libraries.

Before giving consideration to suggestions for popularizing library services, it is necessary for us to understand clearly the ideals of library services. These ideals will vary specifically with individual librarians according to their vision, the community in which the library is situated, and the facilities at their disposal. However, it seems that any ideals worthy of such designation will look beyond merely providing the "better class" with reading material for pleasure and relaxation. They will view the library as a service organization with the specific function of aiding and encouraging borrowers and potential borrowers to avail themselves of the treasures of knowledge that are stored in books. They will seek to make the library a central information bureau through the development of its reference section. They will seek to serve all sections and classes of the community according to the means available. They will endeavour to make the library a vital factor in the cultural life and progress of the community.

The next step is to ascertain what services the particular library can render adequately and which should be developed to meet the circumstances of the community it serves. These may be services within the library itself or through co-operating agencies or extension work.

The third step is to investigate the various ways of development and of giving publicity to the library and the particular services which it can render to the community more fully than it is now doing. Such investigation should result in a coherent plan of development and publicity that will move forward in logical succession from step to step. There is little value in haphazard, hit-or-miss efforts that lack aim and unity.

It must be emphasized that it is futile to embark upon publicity for its own sake. Unless the library can supply a sudden increase in the demand for any particular service, it is far better to say nothing about it. At the same time we must recognize that not infrequently the development of a service follows an increase in demand rather than precedes it. Thus, the librarian and the library committee must be essentially tacticians, balancing the stimulation of demand with the ability to provide the service.

¹ This Handbook has been compiled by the Library Publicity Sub-committee of the S.A.L.A. The original draft was written by Mr. Karlton C. Johnson and Miss Elizabeth Taylor. It was submitted to all members of the Sub-committee and their suggestions have been incorporated. It is hoped that the Handbook will be useful to members of library committees as well as librarians.

The present article will be concluded in our next issue, and will then be reprinted as a pamphlet.

Will intending purchasers kindly notify the Hon. Editor as soon as possible of the approximate number of copies they will require, so that he may estimate the number to be printed.

The problem of giving publicity to the library and its developments is threefold. One aspect is concerned with popularizing the services among borrowers. Another is concerned with attracting new borrowers through popularizing the services among non-borrowers and through developing the scope of its work. The third is concerned with encouraging and instructing juvenile borrowers.

INSIDE THE LIBRARY

Let it be clearly understood that the physical aspect of the library is in itself an important factor in its popularity. Well-ordered arrangement, neat, well-groomed shelves, carefully weeded stock free from tattered bindings and "dead" books are an essential beginning.



Rules or by-laws should be kept at a minimum and as little irritating as possible. The manner and attitude of the assistants in dealing with the public are also at the very foundation of making a good impression and sustaining that impression. Flowers, pictures and such apparently trivial details are important in giving the library itself an attractive atmosphere.

Through the whole setting of the library let there be a spirit of eagerness to serve, to help every borrower in every possible way,

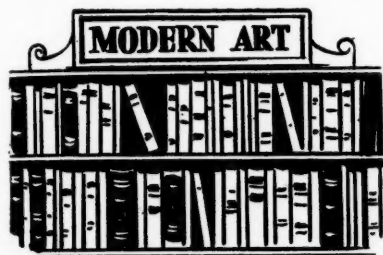
and you are well on the way to making your library a success. Add to this an alert and informed leadership which seeks constantly to improve and extend the service of the library to the community and the battle is half won. Now you will be ready to consider suggestions and build your plan for expansion.

In view of the fact that the majority of borrowers read chiefly fiction, the publicity work among present borrowers will probably be mainly concerned with bringing to their notice the non-fiction and reference sections of the library.

Book Arrangement. Where the book stock is arranged around the walls of a room, it has been found successful to alternate fiction and non-fiction cases. The fiction reader thus has the non-fiction books brought to his attention, and experience has shown that not infrequently his notice is attracted to a non-fiction work which he borrows. This arrangement also has the virtue of avoiding crowding at the fiction shelves, such as frequently happens where all the fiction is placed on consecutive shelves.

Where the book stock is arranged in island cases, it has been found helpful to put small collections of new non-fiction additions at the ends of the cases. Thus the reader who is interested in a given subject can see what new books relating to that subject are in the library, without wading through a lot of basic stock. In some libraries good results have been obtained by simply placing a table in a prominent position and laying new non-fiction books on this table. These suggestions have in view the fact that most borrowers cannot keep themselves informed of all new and interesting books that are stocked and the best way to inform them is to bring the books to their notice. The principle which causes the bookseller to display his new stock applies with equal force to libraries.

The use of dust cover displays is not nearly so effective as making it easy for the borrower to pick up the book itself and browse. However, dust cover displays have values of their own. They will usually make a bright and attractive show that catches the attention, and can be used effectively to create a bright spot in a dull section. They also serve to draw attention to books that may be out on loan, and thus enable the borrower to place a reserve on a book that he desires to read. Dust covers also serve to keep bringing books to the attention of readers. A new copy of an old book is just as much worth reading as a new title just off the press. Most libraries have found it preferable to list "Recent Additions" rather than "New Books".



Signs. To catch the eye and thus the interest of borrowers, it has been found helpful to have prominent and attractive signs indicating sections of non-fiction collections, such as "Modern Art", "Modern Living", "Psychology", etc., etc. These signs might include suitable pictures cut out and pasted onto the sign in addition to the lettering. Such signs reach a section of the public who will never respond to the appeal to "ask the librarian", either because of shyness, or because of diffidence at interrupting a busy

librarian, or because of sheer independence. In some cases a simple plan of the library showing the arrangement and situation of the various sections of the book stock has been found helpful.

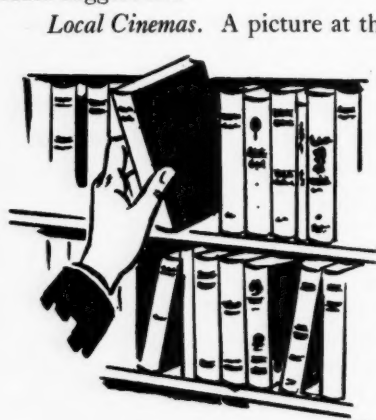
Libraries would do well to inquire of a good commercial art studio about having suitable signs made by the silk screen process. Another method is the Masson-Seeley type of embossing which is extensively used by large stores for writing attractive and dignified price tickets and other signs. Probably it would be possible to secure the co-operation of such a store in producing some very neat signs for a library.

Temporary Topical Displays. From time to time it is possible to make a display of books relating to some particular subject. Since these displays may include books from more than one class and both fiction and non-fiction, the books should be gathered together and placed where they can attract the notice of casual borrowers. Some libraries place such collections near the issue desk but it can be argued that there is a weakness in such a situation as the borrower may only notice it on his way out and after he has already selected his complement of books. Probably some other prominent situation will be better, and it might be possible for the librarian to direct attention to it while discharging returned books. Whatever the position selected, it should be a permanent one so that borrowers will always know where to look for it.

Since the normal visits of borrowers occur from one to two weeks apart, such collections should be maintained not less than one week and not more than three or four weeks. Methods of ensuring that books borrowed from this exhibition are returned to it, as long as it lasts, vary. One method is to mark the books by a spot on the backs. Another is to paste a slip of coloured card on the inside back cover of the book near the spine, having it projecting about one eighth of an inch above the top of the book. Thus, whoever discharges the book knows at once that it should be replaced in the special collection. By varying the colour of the marker with each exhibition there will

be no danger of confusing the collections, even though a new collection immediately succeeds one that has been withdrawn. Care should be taken to remove the markers of withdrawn collections and it is here that the tab projecting from the inside back cover has a distinct advantage.

Such display collections might cover a wide variety of subjects. Following are some suggestions.



Local Cinemas. A picture at the local cinema based upon a book will probably lead to an excessive demand for that book, a demand that cannot be met with the number of copies in stock. Make a collection of related books, both fiction and non-fiction, to which the attention of disappointed borrowers may be directed. Suppose, for example the book of the film deals with India. Make a collection of other books dealing with India, stories of India, books on the problems of India, books giving accounts of travels in India, books telling of the life and work of persons in India, soldiers, missionaries, administrators, national leaders, etc. Don't forget to include other books by the author of the book of the film and stories of his life, if they are available. Thus, the interest stimu-

lated by the showing of the film may be directed into general reading.

Public Holidays. A public holiday may give an opportunity for a collection relating to the history of South Africa to be displayed. For example, Dingaan's Day could be used thus. Likewise, unofficial days such as Paul Kruger Day, could be similarly treated.

Topical Collections. Subjects of perennial interest might be utilized for collections. Such subjects as *Mothercraft*, *Streamlined Housekeeping*, *Cricket*, *Gold*, *Fishing*, *Flying*, *Home Handicrafts*, *Art*, *Music*, *Government*, *Social Problems*, *Politics*, *Health*, etc. lend themselves readily to such display collections. Generally it would be well not to draw the line too narrowly about the subject. For example, a collection on "Flying" might include not only serious works but such yarns as *The Flying Yorkshireman*.

Anniversaries. Jubilees and centenaries provide opportunities of turning public interest into wider channels of reading. The centenary of the arrival of David Livingstone in Africa was used by several libraries to provide a collection of books not only relating to Livingstone specifically but to general exploration and missionary work in Africa as well.

International Topics. World affairs frequently bring various countries into the limelight and thus provide an opportunity for displaying books relating to a particular country. For example, the invasion of Greece by the Italian army might have inspired a collection of books relating to either Greece or Italy or both.

Bookmarks. Some libraries distribute free bookmarks on which are printed the hours when the library is open and details of services which the library offers. In some cases these are paid for by commercial firms which, in return, are allowed to place their advertisement on one side of the bookmark. Generally the introduction of the commercial advertisement has not been found to be wholly satisfactory, though this is not always so.



Should it be decided to try bookmarks, with commercial advertising on one side to pay for them, it is preferable to secure the advertisement of some nationally known article or firm rather than that of a local firm. In such cases it is usual to ask that the copy for the commercial advertisement be submitted to the library for approval, with a view to maintaining dignity and suitability. The method of approach would be to inquire of the selected firm as to the name and

address of their advertising agents, and then apply to the agent.

Lectures. It may be possible to arrange for lectures to be given by qualified speakers under the auspices of the library. At such a lecture a list of books dealing with the subject of the lecture might be distributed or posted on a bulletin board where those interested can refer to it. This implies co-operation between the librarian and the lecturer prior to the lecture. Some libraries have organized a "Library Group" which meets at stated intervals for such lectures, book reviews, play readings or similar activities. Other libraries sponsor branches of such bodies as Afrikaanse Christelike Vroue Vereniging, Afrikaanse Taal- en Kultuurvereniging, English Association, the Workers' Education Association.

Book Lists. Many libraries have found it useful to prepare lists of books on special subjects, or lists of new additions to stock, and to make them available to borrowers. These may be placed on the issue desk with a sign inviting borrowers to take one. Curiously, experience seems to indicate that if a batch of such lists were pierced in one corner and hung where borrowers can pull one off, they are much more likely to take one away with them than if the lists are simply left lying on the desk.

Another successful method of bringing books to the notice of borrowers is to clip book reviews appearing in literary and other papers and mount them neatly in a loose-leaf photograph album. The album can then be kept where it is easily accessible to borrowers. As reviews or books become out of date, leaves can be removed and new ones added.

OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY

The activities suggested above lie within the library. To reach non-borrowers and attract them it will be necessary to go outside the library itself. It is here that a venture must be made into the realm of publicity in the usual sense of the word. Therefore, it will be well to keep in mind that a basic principle of publicity is to attract attention as often and in as many ways as possible. Keep in mind that the main object in view is to enrol new borrowers and users of library services. Following are some suggestions.

Posters. Printed posters may be purchased from the South African Library Association, from library supply firms such as the H.W. Wilson Co., New York, or original posters may be made. These may be placed in a variety of prominent places such as shop windows, club bulletin boards, schools, hotel lobbies, etc. The main purpose of these posters will be to attract people to the library. Therefore, they should be both attractive, dignified and simple. The design should be bold, with attractive colours, clear lettering, and easily taken in at a glance. Probably such posters should give the address of the library in small clear lettering for the benefit of strangers and visitors whose attention has been attracted.

Attention should be drawn to the fact that it is often more satisfactory and effective from every point of view to have a design made by a commercial artist and reproduced by the silk screen process, rather than use the bungling work of an amateur, the cost involved would not be excessive and would probably be well worth while.



Press Items. Articles and reports in the local newspaper can be of two kinds. One kind is intended to serve much the same purpose as the posters, that is simply to remind readers of the library. A wealth of such short items is available in such publications as *The Public library: a vital need*, which is described as "a clip sheet for newspapers and magazines", and from which the local editor can get a filler of any desired length. It was published in 1935 by the American Library Association.

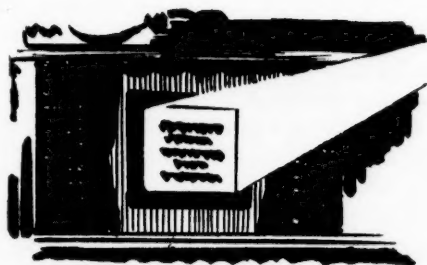
The other kind will be essentially informative with regard to the local library. Often it is possible to arrange for lists of new books added to stock to appear in the local paper at regular intervals. In addition short book reviews prepared by the library may be accepted by the local paper with the note that the book is stocked at the library. The weakness of both these suggestions is that they will likely lead to a demand for the books mentioned that cannot be supplied readily. Topical articles on books, reading, library services and kindred subjects will probably serve the purpose better. Reports of activities are of value and an alert librarian might secure publication of reports of activities of the South African Library Association, or of other libraries. For example, the local paper might accept a report of the Vacation School for Librarians, or an article on the Bookmobile service operated by the Johannesburg Public Library.

Cinema Notices. In several towns the local cinemas are willing to include a free slide advertising the library with their other advertising slides. This is possible particularly where the library co-operates with the cinema by arranging a display in conjunction with a film. Full details of a plan for such co-operation are available from the Secretary of the S.A. Library Association.

Shop Window Displays. Sometimes it is possible to secure the use of the show window of a vacant shop for the purpose of making a display of books to catch the attention of passers-by. Such a display would include an attractive poster urging the advantages of joining and using the library. In this connexion it is sometimes possible to arrange with local booksellers, or with wholesalers and publishers for a local "Book Week" in connexion with which attention can be drawn to the local library.

Advertising Floats. Occasionally a library has found it useful publicity to prepare an attractive float and send it touring the town. Such a medium would need to be used with care but there is no doubt but that it gets considerable attention and it is worthy of consideration where conditions warrant its use. This scheme is particularly feasible in connexion with some organized procession, such as one organized by the Chamber of Commerce during "Prosperity Week."

Displays at Shows. In centres where an Agricultural or other Show is held, it is often profitable to arrange for the library to have a display at one of the stalls. There are many variations possible with such a display. Don't overlook the possibility of using volunteer helpers as attendants as well as in preparing the display.



Public Addresses. If the librarian can do it, it is occasionally possible to arrange for an address to some group of people, such as a club or society. The address may be literary, or practical, or simply descriptive of library facilities. The main thing is to keep bringing the library to the notice of the public and impressing the idea that the library is essentially a live service organization.

Taking Books to the People. Experience shows that it pays to make it as easy as possible for people to borrow books. All too often it has been the custom to sit in the library waiting for borrowers to come, and then complain that South Africans do not read as much as people in other countries. Often the hours when the library is open are not very convenient for many people. It is a fact that many people will read books if they do not have to go to much trouble to get them.

Therefore, the library that really wants to increase its borrowers will seek ways and means of making books easily accessible. This can be done through the system of depository collections in such places as clubs, factories, hospitals, schools, and similar places. It may be possible to arrange for the librarian to be in attendance at these places at certain hours of certain days, or they may be administered with the help of volunteer workers. Do not overlook the possibility of enlisting the aid of members of the Library Committee or members of service organizations, such as Rotary, Toc H, National Council of Women, etc., to help in providing these auxiliary services.

In communities where residents are scattered it might be possible to arrange a circuit which the librarian would visit at stated intervals. This scheme permits of many variations. For example, the librarian might put 50-100 books into the back of a motor-car and visit a small community at 10 a.m. on first and third Thursdays, when nearby residents could come and borrow books from the car. Those who want a particular book could ask for it to be brought on the next visit of the librarian. Thus even a small library could give a bookmobile service. If the librarian does not have a car, it should be possible to get the assistance of a member of the Library Committee or the wife of a Committee member, or some other public-spirited person who could arrange to have the use of the family car at stated times.

Don't overlook the publicity value of enlisting volunteer helpers. Those who are giving to the library in service will have a keen interest in the library because it will be more their own than donations or the payment of subscriptions could ever make it.

Municipal Services. Watch for opportunities to make the library of use to the Mayor, Chairman of Committees, Heads of Departments, and Members of the Town Council. When some local problem is being considered, dig out helpful information and draw the attention of the proper person to the fact that it is available. Watch the papers and clip articles of particular interest. For example, an item on street paving might be clipped and sent to the Town Engineer, "For information in case you didn't notice it". Many Mayors look to the library to supply them with basic material for their speeches to special groups, such as societies, or on special occasions.

Make the library as useful as possible to municipal officials and keep bringing the library to their notice. Thus, it will be easier to convince them of the justness and appropriateness of the library's claim for increased municipal grants.



A similar sort of service could be rendered to various organizations. For example, the librarian might give notice to the local Musical Society of a new book of interest to them, draw the attention of the Stamp Club (Philatelic Society) to an article on stamps in a non-stamp journal, draw the notice of the Camera Club to a Competition for which their members would be eligible. It should be clearly seen that the suggestions indicated above have two objects every time. One object is to be really of service and the other is to keep bringing the library to the notice of various groups of people in a friendly, helpful way.

(to be concluded)

PERSONALIA

AUSTIN—Mrs. N. Austin, Assistant in the Springs Public Library, has been appointed Assistant Librarian there, in succession to Miss C. D. Saul.

BRADLEY—Miss Betty Bradley, of the Port Elizabeth Public Library, has been appointed Librarian at the Witwatersrand Technical College.

FLETCHER—Mr. Angus Fletcher, Director of the British Library of Information in New York, known to many South African librarians who have visited the States, has been appointed Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George for valuable services in relation to colonial and foreign affairs. (*Special libraries*, 32 : 61, Feb. 1941.)

GENTLES—Miss A. M. Gentles, Assistant at the University of the Witwatersrand Library, has been appointed Assistant at the University of Cape Town Library.

HUTCHINGS—Mrs. M. A. Hutchings, for many years Temporary Cataloguer of the Gubbins' Collection of Africana in the University of the Witwatersrand Library, resigned in April.

MCCURDY—Miss U. McCurdy, Librarian of the Kingwilliamstown Public Library, has been appointed Assistant Librarian at Rhodes University College.

ROBINOW—Mrs. B. H. Robinow has resigned from the staff of the University of Cape Town Library.

SAUL—Miss C. D. Saul, Assistant Librarian at the Springs Public Library, has been appointed Librarian at the Randfontein Public Library.

WARREN—Miss N. Warren, B.A., has been appointed Teacher Librarian at the State Library. She is also a member of the staff of the Pretoria Normal College.

WILSON—Miss M. F. Wilson, Assistant at the University of the Witwatersrand Library, has resigned on her approaching marriage.

WITH THE FORCES

Mrs. J. C. Williamson, formerly Assistant Librarian at Rhodes University College.

SOME OBSERVATIONS
ON LIBRARIES AND COLOURED PEOPLE
IN THE CAPE TOWN MUNICIPALITY

by

M. A. WARLEY and H. HOLDSWORTH

To the Editor.

DEAR SIR,

We should like to contribute to your columns this letter drawn up in collaboration giving :

Some observations on libraries and Coloured people in the Cape Town Municipality.

The present situation seems to be something like this : a single library exclusively for Non-Europeans (Natives, as well as Coloureds) exists in the Liberman Institute, which operates an insipid service with a stock of books too small, too worn, and generally ill-suited in subject matter for the type of readers served, without a full-time and adequately-remunerated librarian, and which is able for obvious geographical reasons to serve properly only those people who live within reasonable distance of it. For those outside this district there are no library facilities in practice, for although the law would uphold the claims of the Coloureds to use the Cape subscription libraries by virtue of these libraries being partially tax-supported—as was recently demonstrated in the successful appeal of Coloured readers to the Cape Town municipal council against the action of Claremont Library debarring them from membership—the social prejudice against them is effective in keeping them away. The question of libraries and the Coloured people is not so much that of reforming what little library facilities exist — though the Liberman Library must play a considerable part in the spread of library facilities among them—as in the public policy which is to be adopted. Here the difficulties are great. A public which is apathetic towards any scheme for free public libraries for its own use is likely to be much more so towards one for their considered social inferiors. The greatest objections that might be raised will have their roots in economics and politics : one might hazard a guess that there will be promulgated the same objection that was raised something like a century ago by the English ruling classes when reading facilities for the poor mass of the people was mooted, that nothing is more likely than reading and the educational attainments that go with it to crack the hard nut of economic subjection. Fortunately librarians are interested in education only for education's sake, and not in current economic or political doctrines which might prejudice their work of propagating the means of knowledge. The direr the case, the greater, we imagine, their care and attention.

In the first place it should be stated that no service of any adequacy can be provided which is not supported by municipal grant, which will ensure sufficient funds to meet current needs and to maintain the service thereafter. And no tax, by way of library subscriptions, would seem to be legitimate in view of the financial incapacity under which the generality of Coloureds labour, which prohibits them from either affording library subscriptions or buying books privately. Libraries adequate to meet their needs

must come from the communal pocket ; and rightly so, as they constitute slightly less than 50 per cent. of the Cape Town community—136,370 as opposed to 159,890 Europeans at the time of the 1936 census—and contributing equally with the Europeans to community prosperity by their labour thereby justify for themselves a share in community privileges and amenities. We need not go into the question whether "community privileges" include the free provision of books. We assume in our remarks here that any service which tends to benefit the individual and through him society as a whole might justifiably fall within that category.

That the need for free provision of books is dire indeed we hope that the following points will show. The education system in the Cape, however good the intentions of the controlling bodies concerned, is so designed at present as to produce a non-reading population, so far as the Coloureds are concerned. Lack of compulsory education and the necessity of earning a living at an early age ensure irregular and spasmodic attendance and a regular and general exodus from school of those who have reached the immature age of 13 or 14 and attained Standard IV. The Report of the Superintendent-General of Education for the Cape for 1939 showed that only 2,443 Coloured pupils aged 15 and over were registered at school in 1939 ; that only 11 per cent. of pupils enrolled proceed to secondary education, and only 2 per cent. reach the final standard of the high school course—in 1939 only 121. This infers that a majority of the Coloured population is barely literate and the general reading ability low. In the absence of any system of night-schools or evening tuition the libraries will have to undertake what the schools have failed to do on the whole : to create the desire to read ; and in the more favourable cases to carry on the schooling beyond adolescence. Comparatively few Coloured people have access to the libraries in the University and in the Training Colleges ; the rest will be largely dependent upon the public libraries—for few, if any (we have reason to believe), for social and economic reasons, subscribe to rental and commercial subscription libraries. The above-quoted report admits the "great desire for education the Coloured people have shown in recent years . . ." and states that "the Department's real task is, not to compel Coloured children to use the educational facilities already provided for them, but to provide educational facilities for all the Coloured children that are already clamouring for them". In view of such a bald official confession of the need for further education it is difficult to conjecture what genuine objection can be raised against the institution of public libraries as a further means of promoting it.

Two more conditions would seem to urge the free provision of books. First, the general low wage-level prohibits any extensive purchase of books privately, for the majority of Cape Town Coloureds are unskilled labourers earning usually less than 30s. a week when in full work ; and therefore the responsibility for their provision is incumbent upon the community. Second, unfortunate housing conditions consequent upon poverty create for the great many an atmosphere unfavourable for pleasurable reading and private study, and call for the provision of public reading rooms. The Reports of the Medical Officer of Health for Cape Town (1939) and of the Commission of Inquiry regarding the Cape Coloured population of the Union (1937) are at one in attesting that a large percentage of the homes of Coloureds are overcrowded, many to the point of unsanitariness. If libraries are to attract the poorer Coloureds who lack domestic amenities reading rooms are of the first necessity. Moreover, financial stringency must determine that these reading rooms be situated strategically within the areas populated by Coloured

people in order to obviate unnecessary travelling expenses which can be ill afforded even by determined readers and which will deter altogether those whose reading habits are less firmly established. For this reason the most suitable places at the outset in which to install collections of books seem to be those very places where Coloureds are wont to congregate—the recreational and cultural institutions and settlements, and the new housing estates established by the City Council, where already rooms might exist which can be converted into reading rooms at slight trouble and expense. We see no reason why the question of segregation need arise at these, as it were, preliminary stages, if books are taken to and received by those institutions—clubs, schools, churches—around which much of the communal life already revolves, and which are accepted as their own by the Coloureds themselves. It is conceivable too that the leaders in these institutions—for instance the teachers in the schools for Coloureds—might be willing to render valuable assistance in putting any scheme of this sort into practice. The Liberman Library has already undertaken a service—a service which, unfortunately, has now lapsed, for the time being at any rate—of circulating 20 boxes of books to schools at two-monthly intervals, and an extension service of this kind would not be, then, an innovation; and, indeed, it conjures up, for us, visions of a more comprehensive scheme which would embrace social service institutions which we have reason to believe are inadequate in their provision of recreational and vocational literature— orphanages, hostels for the poor, hospitals, institutions for defective persons, and rescue and preventive homes.

That any organized system of this kind must eventually emanate from the South African Public Library with the financial backing of the community through the City Council is obvious, and it is not our intention here to discuss questions of organization. We are concerned with stressing points which, we consider, indicate the necessity for any such system at all. And we might add here that philanthropy, whether private or public, is not the remedy for these acute problems, and persistent "nagging" will be necessary to secure what can be the only ultimate remedy—municipal support.

There are other factors which incline us to the opinion that further official procrastination in these matters will be boomerang-like in its effect. One is the rapid rise in the Coloured population figures; the other—but one repercussion of social neglect—is the number of juvenile delinquents. The rapidity with which birth-rate figures for the Coloureds in the Cape Town municipality have overtaken those for Europeans, and their tendency to remain at a constant level, whereas those for Europeans tend to go down, are a poignant reminder that the Coloureds will soon form the majority section of the population, and of the inevitability of enlightened relief of social distress and disabilities. Not the least potent means of securing it will be the library.¹ Meanwhile Coloured youth labours under disabilities. The Cape Coloured Commission Report (1938) has pointed out that the early school leaving age, difficulties of employment, enforced idleness through lack of facilities for wholesome recreation—among which reading via the public library must rank high—have contributed to aggravate social maladjustment among many of them, and if we translate it into the more forthright terms of juvenile delinquency figures—an average of 2,618 youthful males and females in the Cape Town municipality for the years 1928 to 1935 (seven times that of the Europeans)—we realize

¹ M.O.H. Annual report, Cape Town, 1939-40: The European birth-rate, 1939-40, was 17.8; the Non-European (including Natives, of course) 46.2; while the natural increase, i.e. excess of births over deaths, of Non-Europeans was 2.9. times as great as that of the European population.

more exactly what it means. We are convinced that books in reading rooms will be a contributory and salutary deterrent.

Any attempt to evaluate the service given by the one existing library for Coloureds in Cape Town must be presumptuous. No library statistics of readers or of issues exist; one can merely generalize from observation. However poor the stock, people have been reading, and good must have come out of it, though what good one cannot say precisely. A questionnaire was attempted, with the kind help of Mr. Ziervogel, Curator of the Liberman Institute, and abandoned; but the very inadequate way in which the 70 or so readers who completed the forms answered the questions—as to the types of books read, amount of home-reading, use of other libraries, and private purchase of books, for instance—seemed to indicate fairly clearly that most readers use only the Liberman, some others school or college libraries, and odd ones the South African Public Library, and that most buy no books at all privately, nor do they patronize commercial subscription libraries. What the majority reads seems largely determined by what is accessible at the Liberman Library. What sorts of people use the Liberman? There are no figures to guide us, but they seem as heterogeneous in character and occupation as the readers of any other public library. On the one hand are students—a minority—from the University, Training Colleges and schools, who read seriously and get as much as they can out of the library seemingly along the lines of their studies. They would use it more if the stock were better. Not unexpectedly, they are in the main the readers who take away books for home-reading; at the same time they are not really serious *users* of the library because the types of books in which they are interested are badly represented or not represented at all. It would therefore be difficult to assess their real reading interests from their readings in this particular library. For those students who study privately for external degrees—exemplary in their patience and perseverance—it is a struggle against heavy odds with the smallest means. On the other hand are the “general” readers, the majority, who might curtly be described as “inhabitants” in the near vicinity. How else to describe a pot-pourri of readers who have never been classified (for library purposes)? They are, with exceptions, the “other than students”; few take out books; their level of reading is fairly low; and newspapers and magazines form their chief literary diet. Some are drawn there by the prospect, not of reading particularly, but of a pleasant chat in surroundings offering more comfort than their homes—which signifies this much: that reading rooms are almost as essential as the books! Children are—or were—the most persistent visitors. About 100 came daily—until recently, for at present there appears to be a temporary lapse in attendance, due no doubt to the absence of a full-time librarian; they came in search of picture books and all the illustrations and “comics” the librarian could lay hands on. It was often a case of “anything is better than nothing”; but the library is a convenient and popular intermediate stage in their travels between the Play-Centre, situated in the same building, and their homes. Here lies, maybe, the most serious task of all: to satisfy amply the inveterate curiosity and eagerness to learn which these little Coloured readers share equally with their European counterparts. Once the library habit is formed in them the future of libraries for the Coloured people is assured of success.

Yours faithfully,

M. A. WARLEY, *formerly Librarian-in charge*, Hyman Liberman Institute Library.

H. HOLDSWORTH, *Sub-Librarian*, University of Cape Town.

SENATE DEBATE ON NATIONAL LIBRARY POLICY ¹

Motion made and Question proposed,—That the attention of the Government be drawn to the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Libraries of the Union of South Africa (1937) with a view to the development of a national library policy, and the organisation of nation-wide library facilities (*Senator Jones*, seconded by *Senator Hollander*.)

†*3.19. SENATOR JONES: Mr. President, in 1937 the Minister of the Interior of that time appointed a committee to investigate the public library system of the Union, and in its report that committee said—

That the present library position in the Union is highly unsatisfactory has for a long time been patent to every one interested.

Now what was wrong with our libraries? There were many things wrong. In the first place our libraries had become too much in the nature of depots for the cold storage of books. There were too many dead books. In 1933 the Librarian of the State Library in Pretoria said that of 1,780,000 books that were recorded within the libraries of the Union, something over 1,000,000 could be regarded as surplus. Secondly, Sir, the libraries had become too exclusive. The subscription libraries, and practically all our libraries at that time were subscription libraries, were beyond the reach of the average person, and subscribers had become reluctant to open the doors to the public, so that the vested interests of subscribers had prevented the libraries from becoming popular institutions. Then again the libraries had become too individualistic. There was little co-operation or co-ordination of their functions. The idea that libraries should be inter-related and be members of a national library system had not been conceived and was not appreciated until the Carnegie Corporation of New York sent to South Africa two able and experienced librarians to investigate and report upon our library system with the view to seeing what help the Carnegie Corporation could give to South Africa with regard to the development of libraries. One of these librarians was the librarian of the Glasgow City Library and the other was the State Librarian of California. They were both appalled at the backward state of our libraries and by the total absence of a co-ordinated system. Again, Sir, our libraries had not until very recently appreciated the modern ideas of what libraries should be and should do. To-day a library is generally regarded as a popular centre for the stimulation of the intelligence of the average citizen and for meeting the cultural needs of the average citizen and not of the favoured few. Here I can quote again the words of the Inter-Departmental Committee appointed by the Minister of the Interior in 1937. This is what it said—

At the root of this conception is the belief that books, through the enlightenment of the understanding and broadcasting of the sympathies which they may be expected to bring about, not only enrich life, but may be made to play an important part in producing good citizens.

Then again our libraries had failed to appreciate the needs of the rural sections of our population. No thought practically had been given to the fact that a large part of our

¹ Reprinted from UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA. *Senate. Debates*. 5. Session — 8. Parliament (4. Senate). Weekly edition. No. 6, 21. April to 25. April, 1941, col. 1734-55. (Reproduced under Government Printer's Copyright Authority No. 354 of 5. July 1941)

population lives in rural areas, far away from the facilities for meeting their cultural needs, for having their minds stimulated through reading, far from opportunities for extension of their knowledge, and very little has been done in that way. The Public Library of Germiston was a pioneer in this direction and for some years it has carried on a circulating library system in the Transvaal through the help of a grant from the Provincial Administration.

*SENATOR ROBERTSON: And still does.

*SENATOR JONES: And still does, and the Department of Agriculture has also in recent years been helpful in the way of special interest in farming and agricultural subjects. On this rural aspect I want to quote again from this committee appointed by the Minister of the Interior, because it is important—

The failure of the present library system of the Union to meet the needs of the people is most apparent in the rural areas. There, despite the presence of small village subscription libraries and school libraries, the laudable efforts of some of the larger town libraries, the special agricultural service from Pretoria, and the beginnings of a free rural service in the Transvaal, ordinary library facilities come within reach of only a small fraction of the population. Yet the experience of other countries, with rural conditions not dissimilar, has shown that with properly directed effort it is possible, at a comparatively small cost, to provide the scattered inhabitants of the country districts with a library service comparable in essential respects with that of the towns.

And lastly, no provision had been made for the needs of the non-European section of the population.

Our library situation was first exposed as I have indicated by the investigations of those two expert librarians sent out by the Carnegie Corporation in 1927. I should like to quote from what Mr. Ferguson, the State Librarian of California, said—

I wonder if an outsider . . . would be pardoned for expressing astonishment at the lavishness with which the Union and the provinces have provided themselves with the machinery of Government and of education; two capitals in addition to the four provinces, three universities, five university colleges, several technical schools—and possibly more to come—all for a small population. The result is that none may be adequately nourished; and some are practically without the equipment, namely, libraries and librarians, with which to carry on their functions with reasonable expectations of success.

Now, during the visit of these gentlemen to South Africa the Carnegie Corporation, which has really been a sort of fairy godmother to many projects in South Africa, made it possible to have a national conference. That conference was held in Bloemfontein in November 1928. I had the privilege of attending there as the representative of two public bodies. In addressing that conference Mr. Pitt, the Glasgow Librarian, said—

While paying very proper tribute to those towns and those people in towns who have been active in endeavouring to provide books for the people, we feel that there has been great loss and unnecessary waste in consequence of lack of proper plans.

Then he went on to say, and this is a very striking statement—

Your present libraries cost in upkeep some £90,000 annually and serve something like 3 per cent. of the white population.

They calculated that the libraries served about 3 per cent. of the population, and more recent investigations have indicated that possibly it is still only 4 per cent. that are being served by our libraries to-day. That conference was a very representative conference, and it outlined a number of very important developments in our national library system. I will only quote from the preamble to their findings and recommendations. I do not propose to go in detail into the findings of that conference. The principles are laid down in this preamble—

This conference, having had under consideration the library requirements of South Africa and the existing facilities, is convinced of the great need for—

- (a) Extension among the people of the practice of reading for study and recreation, and the recognition by the Union Government of library facilities as an extension of the educational services founded by the State.
- (b) The encouragement of all school-going children, and of those who have left school, in the habit of reading and their guidance in the use of books.
- (c) Adequate library provision for the non-European sections of the population.
- (d) The formation of a co-ordinated service throughout the country so as to avoid uneconomical library organisation (particularly in the purchase of books) and to put all books in the national system within reach of every citizen in the Union.

Certain developments have followed from the conference. That conference did serve to stimulate interest in our libraries in South Africa and the appointment of the inter-Departmental committee to which I have referred was one of the outcomes of that conference. Now this committee said—

After full consideration of the evidence before it, the committee is convinced that no marked improvement can be effected, nor continuous progress ensured unless a radical change is made in the library policy of the country; and, further, that to bring this about a strong lead must be given by the Government, and the active co-operation of the municipal and other local authorities secured.

I draw the Minister's special attention to those words. Now here is a new development: firstly, the Government is asked to give direction to our national policy with regard to libraries and secondly, municipalities are asked to take a more active part in the development of our libraries. I am going to give very briefly the recommendations of that conference, because Hon. Senators are asked to discuss this resolution in the light of these recommendations. The recommendations can be given very briefly. First of all, I will deal with those recommendations which are concerned with what the provinces should do—

- (a) The assumption by those Administrations which had not already done so of the responsibility for the libraries in their provinces in accordance with the Financial Relations Act, No. 10 of 1913;
- (b) The appointment of a Library Advisory Committee in each province to advise the Administrator on library development;
- (c) Development by the provinces of free rural library services;
- (d) Development by the provinces of non-European library services.

With regard to the services which the Union Government could perform there are two points—

- (a) The placing of the two national libraries (i.e., South African Public Library and the State Library, Pretoria) in a position to fulfil their respective functions;
- (b) The granting to all libraries of facilities for the free transport of books, more especially for services in rural areas.

I shall deal briefly with the question of the assumption by the provinces of their responsibilities. I regret to say that the Natal and the Orange Free State Provinces have not followed the example of the Cape and the Transvaal by taking over responsibility for public libraries, at least the subsidisation of libraries in their provinces. Under the Financial Relations Act it is permissible for the Provinces to undertake this responsibility, and I want to press that point and I hope Hon. Senators from Natal and from the Orange Free State will help us in impressing upon their administrations their responsibility in this way. The result is this, that except where you have enlightened municipalities as in the case of Durban and Pietermaritzburg the library facilities for the people of Natal are almost non-existent, except where the local people have managed by their own exertion to provide limited or restricted facilities. In the Orange Free

State the position is the same. The Bloemfontein Public Library has suffered severely from the fact that it has not received any support from the Provincial Administration. In the Cape Province, Ordinance No. 10 of 1912 authorises municipalities to make grants to libraries, but it limits the total amount of grants which municipalities may make to libraries and other public institutions to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the municipal revenue. If therefore the total amount of grants-in-aid made by municipalities is up to that amount it means that some services like the library service must suffer. Also, in the Cape Province the Ordinance does not permit municipalities to establish libraries. Johannesburg I may mention is a notable example of a municipality which has gone all out to develop its library system. About £50,000 a year is spent by the Johannesburg Municipality on their library.

The two Carnegie visitors and also all authorities overseas recommend that public libraries should be free to the people. Our subscription libraries are out of date and not suited to the needs of the people. It is very hard to break down the system and the only way in which it can be broken down is that the Union Government, the Provinces and the municipalities should combine in carrying out the responsibility of free libraries. There must, therefore, be a great deal of education of local authorities and of the public before we shall see public libraries really free. There is only one free library, to my knowledge, in the whole of the Cape Province and that is a library provided partly by the Carnegie Corporation, the Hyman Liberman Institute in Cape Town. I also want to emphasise the need for the development of free rural library services. This should be organised on a provincial basis with regional centres and directed by a trained library organiser. As I have said, a beginning has been made in the Transvaal. I am glad to be able to say that in the Cape Province during the last year or so a new development has taken place in this direction and there is now a Society for Book Distribution operated from the South African Public Library under a grant by the Cape Provincial Administration which distributes books to 43 centres that benefited from this scheme in 1940. As the Inter-Departmental committee said—

The provision of such services in the Union is not only highly desirable from the point of view of the rural population itself but in the best interests of the entire community.

As regards the non-European section of the population, I should like to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the Carnegie Corporation which has made grants amounting altogether to £4,000 for the development of the non-European library services, and here again the Germiston Library has made a notable contribution. It has undertaken responsibility for library services in the Transvaal amongst non-Europeans and there are 94 centres where non-Europeans, particularly natives, are benefiting from the library services carried on by the Germiston Public Library through the help of the Municipality and other bodies interested. The Johannesburg Municipality has itself also opened two excellent branch libraries in Johannesburg, one in the western native township, a beautiful building, and a most attractive effort, and the information I had a few days ago was that the children of these townships had raided the library and there is now not a book left on the bookshelf in the library suitable for children. The children have discovered the library and are making it their own. In addition the adults are also making full use of that library, showing that this section of the population, if they are given an opportunity for reading, for using their leisure time for useful and helpful interests, will be only too glad to take advantage if opportunities are offered.

Now, I should like to come to the second part of the Committee's recommendation, to what the Union Government is called upon to do by the committee. I want to refer particularly to the position of two libraries, the South African Public Library, Cape Town, and the State Library, Pretoria. Already the State Library, Pretoria, has endeavoured to carry out some of the recommendations of the Carnegie Conference and the Inter-Departmental Committee and it is giving its service as a central library to other libraries. These other libraries refer to them if they want books which they themselves cannot afford. That is a recommendation that was made by the experts and by the committee in order to avoid small libraries having books which really are not worth their while to buy and which would be uneconomical for them to buy. It is therefore most desirable that the State Library, Pretoria, should become a central Library, in order to help the small libraries with books which they cannot afford to buy, and I should like to point out that the view to-day is that the smaller libraries should not have many books of a permanent nature. Their books should be always circulating and they should also be borrowing from the larger libraries to meet the needs of their people. The South African Public Library has rare treasures. It is the oldest institution in the country. It has been enriched by benefactions of many kinds. In one case at least a very rich collection is lodged in that library, but owing to the terms of the bequest the collection may never be used. That library has for many years been struggling to carry out two quite incompatible functions, one as a national library and the other as a subscription library. I hope the day is coming soon when the Cape Town Municipality will take a pride in its library and will itself help to take over the burden of general public library services and build a new public library somewhere in either the centre of the town, where facilities may be available for everybody, or in the new part of Cape Town—a new public library for the public run by the City of Cape Town. That is the idea, and I think Cape Town should very soon now be considering how that idea can be carried into effect. There is then the other aspect, the national aspect as to the use of those treasures and of the books of a more serious nature than those necessary to place in a public library. I would suggest that the public library part should be built in the centre of the city and the old South African Public Library across the way should become a national library. This library would, in that way, become a great national reference library. It would serve for South Africa the part which the British Museum plays in England and the part which the Library of Congress plays in the United States. Here I venture to make the suggestion that we in this House and in both Houses of Parliament might well consider whether it will not be possible for the Library of Parliament and that reference part of the South African Public Library to be amalgamated in some such way as to serve as the Library of Congress serves in the United States. That is to say, a part would be provided for Parliament and specially to Parliament. The rights of members would not be interfered with, but the whole organisation of the library would be made available to serious students and those concerned with the research side. That is a suggestion which is supported by all authorities in South Africa to-day, and I venture to think that when we are discussing the possibilities of new buildings, this is a development that might be given careful consideration, and so my motion to-day is concerned with a service which municipalities, provincial councils and the national Government could develop and there is also the possibility of Parliament itself making a contribution

to scholarship by co-operating in the development of a great national library and by using the resources of Parliament for the South African Public Library.

I have run over the recommendations of the committee very briefly. There is a great deal more that can be said. I cannot sit down, however, without paying a tribute to the generosity of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, not only in this direction but in other directions. Not only has it placed large sums at our disposal and spent them in South Africa for the investigation of the poor white problem and other problems, but it was prepared to spend another £26,000 at least to carry out the recommendations which I have placed before this Hon. House this afternoon. Unfortunately, we delayed and dallied and we lost that opportunity, but I have every faith that if the Minister were to take any definite action along the lines of these recommendations, particularly with regard to the development of a national library, this sum would still be made available to us by the Carnegie Corporation. So, in bringing my motion forward, it was not merely to fill in time but to express the wishes and desires of those who give their time, trained men and others who have a special interest in the development of our libraries in South Africa, for library development in South Africa, and to express the hope that by passing this resolution this House will be able to impress upon the Government the desirability of definite progressive action being taken from which South Africa as a whole will benefit.

†*3.46 SENATOR HOLLANDER: Mr. President, I should like to take upon myself the privilege of seconding this motion. With the principles that have been enunciated by the Hon. Senator Jones, I am quite sure there will be unanimity of feeling in this House, and that the matter has not been lost sight of is indicated by a report of proceedings of the Provincial Consultative Committee which was held in Cape Town some three months ago. In the absence of the Hon. Minister of the Interior through sickness, the meeting was presided over by the Hon. Minister of Finance, and I quote from the report of those proceedings—

Recommendations of Inter-Departmental Committee on Libraries.

This is presumably the same Inter-Departmental Committee which the Hon. Senator has referred to.

The Chairman gave an historical survey and it was noted that—

- (a) The Free State had submitted proposals for the establishment of a rural library service, but was unable to contribute anything towards the necessary funds ;
- (b) Natal, while sympathetic, is unable to do anything in the present financial situation ;
- (c) The Cape is making steady progress ;
- (d) Transvaal is appointing a departmental committee on the lines suggested at the previous meeting and is spending £9,500 per annum on library services, including school libraries.

After further discussion it was decided that the matter should stand over till the next meeting of the committee.

It has been the practice, as far as my knowledge goes, of the Natal Administration to make grants to school libraries and it also makes a grant to what was a national library in Natal, that is the library in Pietermaritzburg, but I want to just remind the Hon. Senator of this, that the most important point that was dealt with by the inter-provincial conference was a suggestion made by the Minister of Finance, acting as Chairman, that he proposed to appoint a Fact Finding Committee to establish what the actual position of the provinces was to-day in the light of their financial commitments and together with their general administration and other subjects. It may interest Hon. Senators to

learn that this also includes the very much debated question of native hospitals which was suggested as an item for consideration by this Fact Finding Committee which the Minister proposed to appoint. I do not know what the position is at the moment, except that I have learnt that the provinces have been invited to make suggestions as to the agenda, but the most important point that will then be considered—at least I take it so—will be the financial position of the provinces in association with their commitments and their general services, and I have no doubt as the Minister who is the actual Chairman of that committee is here that he will make a special note to see that the question of proper provision for a chain of libraries from a national point of view is taken into consideration, and that whatever financial obligations may result therefrom, both on the Central Government, Provincial Administrations and Municipalities, will be taken into consideration. So it seems that a step will certainly be taken during the coming year on the lines that the Hon. Senator has suggested, and that this question of any help from the provincial point of view, and may I say equally from the municipal point of view, will receive due consideration in connection with the present and future position of the provinces. I very sincerely hope with the Hon. Senator, in seconding this motion, that we shall get from this Fact Finding Committee decisions on provincial activities which will include the question of library services in so far as the non-Europeans are concerned as well as provision for the European population in both urban and rural districts.

3.52. SENATOR C. A. VAN NIEKERK : Mr. President, I have great pleasure in giving my support to this motion. One outstanding fact is that we in South Africa make much too little of our libraries and the value thereof and the pleasure it can afford. There are three persons in particular who took a great part in the institution of public libraries in this country, one of whom was Lord Charles Somerset who took the initiative in founding the public library in Cape Town. The wine industry was the first industry responsible for the creation of the public library in South Africa. I think that on every cask of wine passing through the market, one riksdaalder was set aside, and it had to be used for the creation of a public library. It shows what the wine industry in the Western Province in those days already did. The second person was a South African by birth, namely Nicolaas Dessine[!] who bequeathed his library to the Dutch Reformed Church, for the purpose of instituting in South Africa a library in the interests of public welfare. I think it consisted of nearly 4,000 volumes. It is a pity, however, that those books for many years were not accommodated under proper supervision, and that some of those books were lost which cannot be replaced to-day. I do not know whether that collection of books known as the Dessinian Library to-day still is under the control of the Dutch Reformed Church, or whether it is in the public library in Cape Town. A third person was Sir George Grey, a man who is very highly thought of especially in the Free State as regards education. Through his efforts also a public library was called into being. I may say that the people have not forgotten him. Here in front of the public library a statue of him has been erected. What to-day comprises an unlimited treasure for supplementing our public libraries are the documents in the archives of the country : In the Cape since the landing of Jan van Riebeeck ; in the Free State since its establishment ; in the Transvaal since its establishment ; in Natal since its establishment. But in the Cape Province there are valuable documents which up to the present have not yet been published. Now I should like to appeal to the Minister to be liberal

towards the Archives Commission, and that is why the request is made of him to publish certain documents, especially the "plakate" not for our own sakes, but for the sake of history and of the future of the children in South Africa, and not to have those treasures kept in hiding, and have them available only for the few officials in the archives and not for the entire nation. The Rev. Leibrandt [!] has done much to follow up certain documents in the archives and to arrange them, and a section of them have been published and issued under the title of "Requesten" or "Memorials." A section of them, from "A" to "N" have been published but the section "O" to "Z" has not yet been published. Fortunately, however, a city publishing company now has undertaken to publish the section "O" to "Z" also, and when that has been done, the set will be complete. The things mentioned in that document are of such great value that it will be worth while if the Minister were also to give a little financial support. Take the placaten, which as yet have not been published, and would be of great value to any library. Any library which does not possess it, would like to possess it, but they are unable to secure it because they have not yet been published. I know that the Minister, as one who is interested in the public welfare, will certainly meet us. The Archives Commission once tried to obtain from the Government a photostat, in order to photograph documents, but it took us 17 months before we succeeded in obtaining it. I do hope that if in future we ask him to assist us with the publication of the documents to which I have referred, he will give financial assistance. The Hon. Senator Jones has asked that the libraries should make more concessions to the Bantu. I also think that should be done. At the same time I also think that the race to which I belong has not yet received its full due as regards Afrikaans books in public libraries. Go to any library and ask for a list of Afrikaans books and Nederlands books and you will see what a sad state of affairs is revealed, how few Afrikaans and Nederlands books appear in it. Twenty-five years ago, in another place, I also asked a question with regard to the number of Nederlands and English books in our parliamentary library. Do you know I felt ashamed just to think that here, in a country where the Afrikaans-speaking section number more than 50 per cent. of the European population, there were so few Nederlands books in our parliamentary library. I am pleased to see that the position has been improved very much since then, but it has not yet reached the stage where we can be satisfied to leave it at that. The Hon. Senator Jones has referred to the difficulties there are. One of the great difficulties we have is in connection with railway freight. The tariffs in connection with books are high. We find that even in our own parliamentary library there are books which are not necessary, and which could be dispensed with, for instance novels and other fiction, which excite the imagination. Then I should like to refer to the duplicating system. You have a series of books which comprise a full set ; it is duplicated, and then you find similar sets in other libraries. Space is valuable in our public libraries, and you ought not to keep duplicates and triplicates in one library. It is best to send them to other places where they may be useful. The tariff on books is something which obstructs the extension of libraries. Recently I had the misfortune that a parcel of books was sent to me, and the person who sent it omitted to write on the parcel that they were literary matter, and so I had to pay the high railway rate on it. If the Minister could only meet us to the extent of having half rates for books. Another point that has been mentioned concerns the rural population, and I plead that the library system be extended to the platteland also. The small

authorities are not in a position to establish expensive libraries and they are dependent on gifts. It is not always the wealthy classes who live there, and those people do need it in order to increase their knowledge. The Nasionale Pers has lately done much to enlarge the libraries of the Afrikaans-speaking section of the people. A certain library system has been established according to which people may subscribe to books and obtain them at a reasonable price and thus supplement their own collections. Where the Hon. Senator Jones referred to the native people, I should like to support him in that respect. Why should we exclude the native, when he has attained a measure of civilization and development? Why should we deprive him of the privilege of having his own library also and thus increasing his knowledge? May I add here that the children's section is one of the things we lose sight of. I think we agree with the viewpoint that we should increase the knowledge of the adult population; yet I do think a mistake is being made by overlooking the child, because the child should begin in his childhood. I am sorry that in my childhood I did not have the privileges which children to-day have. You will agree that the knowledge we acquired in our childhood has remained with us until our old age. When one is an adult, one studies matters, but you forget it very soon, and you have to read things up again. But if you acquired knowledge of a matter in your childhood you afterwards have a much broader view of it. I can associate myself with this motion, and I hope that it will not remain at prayers and sighs, and that the Minister will consider the treasures of knowledge which are available to us, but of which he holds the key in his hands. He has the key to unlock the documents of incalculable value to which I have referred, and the entire people will be grateful to him for it.

*4.8. THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR: Mr. President, Hon. Senator Jones has done a real service in introducing this motion into the House this afternoon, and the eloquent manner in which Hon. Senators who have taken part in this debate have spoken is a tribute to the subject matter of the motion and to the importance of the subject in the public life of our country. I could not help feeling when listening to the debate this afternoon what an almost tonic effect it had to be able to listen, in this calm and dispassionate atmosphere of this Upper House of review in these difficult days of stress and physical strain, to the helpful and instructive discussion that has taken place along what might be called the more spiritual side of our life. It was very refreshing and very heartening indeed in these difficult days. It is not necessary for me to add very much to what has been said, but I should like to make one or two observations. I was glad to hear the tribute which the Hon. Senator C. A. van Niekerk in the course of his most eloquent speech paid to the Cape, my province, my home, as providing the beginnings of the library system in South Africa. That is quite true. The history of the formation of the institution of the South African Public Library at Cape Town is the beginning of the history of public library development in this country and those historical beginnings are most illuminating and very interesting in these days. The Hon. Senator has pointed out how this first great public library in this country owes its inception partly to the inspiration of Lord Charles Somerset and partly to the wine industry of the Western Province. It is an interesting fact that in 1818 a proclamation was issued directing that the proceeds of a gauging charge of one rixdollar on each cask of wine passing through the Cape Town market should go towards creating a fund for the formation of a public library. There at any rate this sometimes much maligned industry

of the Western Province, the wine industry, may claim that at any rate it has played some part in building up the cultural life of this country.

*AN HON. SENATOR : And the spiritual!

*THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR : It is interesting to know that about the time that our wine industry of the Western Province was playing this important part in our cultural development, Keats referred to it in one of his poems.

*SENATOR FOURIE : It was a most important industry at that time.

*THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR : Yes, I agree.

*SENATOR FOURIE : And they taxed the most important industry.

*THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR : The hon. mover and the Hon. Senator C. A. van Niekerk have spoken on what the library means in the communal life of the country, and they pointed particularly to its importance on the life of the younger community. That point can never be over-emphasised. It is perhaps trite to say it, but our libraries really provide a university for the poor man. The library is the poor man's university, a library properly conducted and properly stocked. It enables any person, however poor or however humble in circumstances, to imbibe the best in literature, the best thoughts of all persons of all nations. It is a privilege open to all, but it is not used as much as one would like it to be used, and that being so, quite obviously any community, any nation, should do its utmost to further the cause of its library development. Now, Mr. President, an Hon. Senator has referred to the recommendations made by the Inter-Departmental Committee appointed in 1936 and which reported in 1937. I do not propose to traverse in detail those recommendations, because, as pointed out by the Hon. Senator Hollander, two provincial consultative committees have given their attention to the resolutions on a number of occasions. I admit the progress has not been as satisfactory as it might have been, but at any rate the matter has not been allowed to drop, and at the very last meeting of the Consultative Committee in January this year it was agreed the matter should stand over until the next meeting pending the finding of this Fact Finding Committee which the Government proposes to appoint. May I just remind Hon. Senators of the manner in which the Consultative Committee has dealt with the question. In July, 1938, the Consultative Committee decided that consideration of the recommendations be held over until the question of subsidies to the provinces had been settled. At that stage in 1938 already this question of the financial relations between the Government and the provinces had cropped up once again, and it was felt at that stage that it would be advisable to postpone consideration of this library question until the major question of the financial relations had been considered, and the Government of the day decided that it was not prepared at that stage to review the existing position and apparently a position of stalemate had been reached. Representations were then received from a number of bodies, including the South African Library Association, with the view to effect being given to the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee. At that stage the Department of the Interior could do no more than point out the position and emphasise that in view of the apparent deadlock which had arisen it could do nothing more. Then in August, 1939, the Consultative Committee once again deliberated upon the matter, and the following resolution was adopted—

That each province should deal with the recommendations that will not entail any serious financial obligations, and report progress at the next meeting of the Consultative Committee. The recommendations involving greater responsibility could then be dealt with at a later stage.

Once again in January, 1940, the matter came up, and at that meeting of the Consultative Committee what I might call the rural aspect, the "Platteland" aspect to which Senator C.A. van Niekerk referred, was particularly stressed. Hon. Senators may recollect that the Inter-Departmental Committee itself drew particular attention to the rural aspect of library facilities, and I might give just a summary of what the Inter-Departmental Committee said. It said—

The failure of the present library system is nowhere so apparent as in the rural areas. It is recommended that immediate steps be taken to set up a free rural library service in each province. The cost of the service contemplated, which is estimated as 1s. per annum per head of the population served, when the service is in full operation, should be borne equally by the Union Government and the Provincial Administrations.

It was implicit in that recommendation of the Inter-Departmental Committee that each province should set up a free rural library service. Nothing had been done, however, by January, 1940, and at that conference the Minister of Education, Mr. Hofmeyr, specially directed the attention of the members of the committee to this rural aspect of the question and he suggested that the provinces should each appoint their own Library Advisory Committee for the purpose of formulating proposals, and if this was done then he indicated that a measure of assistance might be expected from the Government. That has not yet been done. As I understand the position, the provinces have not yet set up these library advisory committees.

*SENATOR JONES: Except the Cape.

*THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR: With the exception of the Cape. At that stage the province of Natal and the Orange Free State indicated their willingness to give further consideration to this matter. As pointed out by Senator Jones, at the February, 1941, meeting of the Consultative Committee the position was this, that the Free State had submitted proposals for the establishment of a rural library service, but was unable to contribute anything towards the necessary funds. Natal, whilst sympathetic, was unable to do anything in the present financial situation. The Cape was making steady progress. The Transvaal is appointing a departmental committee on the lines suggested at the previous meeting, and is spending £9,500 per annum on library services, including school libraries. After further discussion it was decided that the matter should stand over till the next meeting of the committee. That is the position as it is at the present time. We have, I admit, a great deal of sympathy. Sympathy is a very good thing, but I admit it does not always get one there. I think it was a witness who once stated, when asked whether he had confidence, that you could not discount confidence at the Standard Bank, and I suppose the same thing applies with regard to sympathy. It may be very useful to have it, but you cannot translate it into something practical. At any rate, it indicates a right state of mind and I can assure the hon. mover of the motion that the Government is very sympathetic in regard to this. The hon. mover must however realise that present circumstances are not the happiest in which he can expect a very far forward step to be taken. The Government has immense calls upon it in regard to national institutions. If I may just give him one example, a matter worrying the Department of the Interior at the present time is the question of adequate accommodation in our mental hospital institutions. There is a growing need, and has been for

some years, for better accommodation in mental hospitals, and if the Department has to choose as between the two, it seems to me that the first choice will be the case of those unfortunate people who have to be housed in mental hospitals. But, Sir, I am hopeful that something will happen as a result of this Fact Finding Committee which the Government is appointing. It will have wide terms of reference, and in drawing up those terms of reference I shall have regard to what the Hon. Senator Hollander has said as to whether libraries can come within the scope of their reference. That is as far as I can take the matter this afternoon. Senator C. A. van Niekerk has referred to the translation of a number of documents in the archives. The archives do of course supply most valuable material for our libraries. The question of printing the old plakaten has had the serious consideration of the Archives Committee and of the commission and of the chief archivist of the Union, and I know that the commission is making representations to my department at the present time. These old historical links are of the greatest value to students from the research point of view. Those who have embarked upon the task of translating them have done a great service. That service is for all time, and while I know there may be impatience on the part of those who take what I might almost call a professional historical interest in these matters, we must have patience. These things will be published and the Government will help. I can give the Hon. Senator that assurance, even though we may have to wait just a little longer. I thank the Hon. Senator for introducing this motion and directing the attention of this House and of my department to it. I am perfectly certain that this discussion this afternoon will serve a good purpose. It has helped me in this matter and will be of assistance in any future action which may be taken.

†*4.23. SENATOR JONES: I should like to thank the Minister for the trouble he has taken to reply to this motion and to the discussion. I quite appreciate the difficulties of the situation, but I do think that it is important that the provinces should be jogged now and again, and I wish very much that a departmental committee could have been appointed to keep in touch with the provinces. I do not know whether that will be possible later on. I do want to emphasise what the Hon. Senator C. A. van Niekerk said about transport. If the Minister could help us in getting cheap transport for books, it would be a great help. Every civilised country does it, and South Africa is far behind the rest of the world in regard to facilities for the transportation of books. In our rural areas it is a very great burden, and I hope the Minister will help us in making representations to the right quarter. The Minister spoke about mental hospitals. I do not know whether he was really referring to libraries. I suppose libraries really could be regarded as preventoriums and if people used the libraries more there might be less need for mental hospitals! I do want to urge upon the Minister to use his influence to see that our libraries are made fireproof. It is a very serious thing that the South African Public Library, which contains national treasures, is not fireproof at all.

*THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR: The matter is being discussed with the library authorities.

*SENATOR JONES: It would be a tragic thing if those treasures were to be lost, because they are real national treasures. I should like to thank Senator C. A. van Niekerk for his appreciative remarks in support of this motion. I want him to know that a good deal is now being done in providing the Bantu population with books in the

vernacular. I have the pleasure of being joint editor of a series of books published in the vernacular for them to encourage them in their own traditions. The oral tradition is being put into writing and those books are being circulated in collections which are being built up throughout the country. We are taking a leaf from the book of the Afrikaans-speaking people and seeing that the Bantu are encouraged in their own language. It is interesting to note that the Cape Committee, which is working under the direction of the Cape Provincial Administration, set out straight away with the principle that 75 per cent. of the books should be Afrikaans and 25 per cent. English, having regard to the distribution of the population; and their experience has shown that that is a fair allocation. It is encouraging to find that the rural areas are taking full advantage of this service, only we want to get it developed. I am very grateful, Sir, to the Minister for his appreciative remarks, and perhaps with a little jogging now and again we will get a little further.

Question put and agreed to.

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

Bloemfontein. *Public Library. Annual report.* 432 fewer books were purchased than last year, but the expenditure on books was £125 greater. Income from subscriptions decreased by £54, as a large number of members are on active service. At the same time, says the Report, "has come the increased realization of the importance of a library service in times of stress and strain." The Children's Library shows a decrease both in membership and issues, attributed to a lack of sufficient new books, owing in its turn to lack of funds.

As one of the official distributing centres for Books for the Troops, the Library sent large quantities of books to training camps and up North. At the Y.M.C.A. hut at Tempe a circulating library has been established, with a stock of 1,400 books and a weekly issue of nearly 400.

Non-European Libraries. Boxes of books were sent to 10 centres outside Bloemfontein. Books have also been placed in a shop at Heatherdale for the local Coloured population, and the circulating library at the Bantu Social Institute at the Batho Location is still flourishing. It is becoming more and more difficult to organize this service without a supervisor who could visit the different centres and assist the voluntary helpers.

Germiston. *Non-European Library.* The Library, housed in temporary premises a quarter mile outside the Location, was officially opened by the Mayor of Germiston on 21. June. Mr. Borland, in introducing the Mayor, said that the growth of the Library over the last ten years was based on the genuine desire of Natives, Coloured people and Indians for books, firstly for examination purposes, and secondly because a considerable number of readers were really interested in discovering what their own position was, and how the European world had developed in civilization. Valuable experience was being gained every week about the types of literature that the Africans and other Non-Europeans wanted to read. There are approximately 1,000 books in the Library, in Afrikaans, English, Zulu, Xhosa, Sesuto and Sechuana, as well as all books that have been published in Sithonga, Sepedi, Venda, and Ndebele.

The Town Council of Germiston has made a grant of £226 per annum to the Library, the funds being derived from the Native Revenue account. A full-time, matriculated African is in charge of the Library.

Mr. Stirling stressed the importance of Non-European libraries. Africans, he said, would come as much as 30 miles to change a book. Reading rooms for Non-Europeans were particularly necessary because of the lack of quiet surroundings at home.

Grahamstown. *Albany Museum.* Part of the Museum was destroyed by fire on 6. September. The damage is estimated at £50,000. The herbarium and part of the historical records were saved, but many valuable historical exhibits have been lost.

LIBRARIES IN WARTIME

In our last issue we mentioned several British libraries which had suffered damage in air raids. Two more important libraries have now been added to the list :—

National Central Library. In the early hours of . . . the greater part of the Malet Place premises of the Library was completely destroyed by fire. The portions which have been completely destroyed include the Adult Class Department, with all its books (other than those at present on loan) and records, the Bureau of American Bibliography (although fortunately all the more important reference books and the Library of Congress Catalogue are at Bourne Lodge), the Information Department (though here, again, the union catalogues and the more important books are at Bourne Lodge), the Board Room and all the offices on the first floor of the West Block, (and portions of the book stack). Most of the rest of the building has been slightly or seriously damaged by water or fire.

We have been able to save many thousands of books, some of which have been taken from parts of the building which have since been burnt or have collapsed. Among the books lost are many volumes of series, such as the Rolls Series, The Calendars of State Papers, an almost complete set of the publications of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, *etc.*

We have been particularly fortunate in obtaining the temporary use of the Library Association's premises at Chaucer House. (*Library review*, no. 58 : 46-48, Summer, 1941.)

Royal Empire Society Library : An Appeal. The Royal Empire Society Library has circulated a mimeographed statement, embodying (1) the extent of the damage ; (2) outline of a scheme for collecting material for the re-stocking of the Library ; (3) a statement on the fire for press purposes. We quote the following extracts for general information :—

In all about 35,000 books and some thousands of pamphlets were destroyed when a heavy bomb fell on the building, while many more were damaged or rendered useless by water. Briefly it may be stated that the following sections of the Library were entirely destroyed :—

1. The unique Library of Overseas Law, with the exception of certain sections (such as the Indian section) kept in the Basement. This loss is the more serious in view of the destruction of the Libraries of Gray's Inn and the Inner Temple and damage to other law libraries in London.
2. The whole of the general section dealing with the British Empire.
3. The whole of the collection of books and pamphlets on Foreign Colonies—French, Italian, Dutch, Belgian, and German. This was the only specific collection of such books in the British Empire.
4. The whole of the sections relating to Malta and Gibraltar, and the topographical books on England and Scotland.
5. The whole of the Hinde collection relating to East Africa.
6. The whole of the section relating to the War of 1914-18, books, pamphlets, and official literature.
7. The Voyages and Travel section, including many collections of voyages, long sets such as those of the Hakluyt and Linschoten Societies.
8. Books dealing with American Colonial history.
9. Many valuable sets of the Proceedings of learned societies, such as those of the Royal Societies of Canada, Australia, South Africa, and the New Zealand Institute. Also numerous sets of important Empire journals, such as the Round Table, the Colonial Office Journal, *etc.*

The following sections were seriously damaged by fire and water :—

10. The Canadian section. Here many precious books were rendered useless.
11. The Australian, New Zealand, West Indies, and African sections. Here the injury was not so serious although numerous books have been greatly damaged.

Fortunately the large collections of official literature of all kinds, which were kept in the Basement, escaped destruction.

It is suggested that possibly the most effective way for aiding in the re-establishment of the Library might be the following :—

1. The organization in each of the Dominions and Colonies of collecting centres. These might be either regional, covering certain definite areas, or State or Provincial. It is hoped that within the British Empire the leading librarians may offer to house

such books as may be collected in their respective areas until such time as they can be sent to England.¹

2. It is suggested that in each area a small collecting committee might be organized, working in close co-operation with the librarian or other leader of the movement. These committees might consist of representatives of the universities, principal societies, and other bodies. If and when any representative in a region is willing to undertake the preliminary work of collection, the Library Committee of the Royal Empire Society would be glad to forward the names of those in each region who have in the past used the Library, or are aware of the work it has performed, so that their co-operation might be asked for.

3. It is suggested that the co-operation of the Press is highly important.

These suggestions are only preliminary and tentative. The organizing committee would be glad to receive and consider all suggestions that may be submitted to them. Replies should be addressed to The Librarian, Royal Empire Society, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2.

¹ The Librarian, South African Public Library, Cape Town, and the Librarian, University of the Witwatersrand, Milner Park, Johannesburg, will gladly house any literature destined for the Royal Empire Society Library.

BOOKS FOR THE TROOPS

CAPE TOWN COMMITTEE

In September the Cape Town Books for the Troops Committee issued its *Second progress report*. In the last few months stocks of books received have been running low, and an appeal is made for further donations. Arrangements have been made with the National Anti-Waste Committee for books and magazines received at their Cape Town depot to be sorted and distributed in collaboration with this Committee. Literature is sent to camps, batteries and canteens, military hospitals, aerodromes, R.N.V.R., Cape Corps, Seaward Defence, Merchant Navy, H.M. Warships, visiting convoys, the military guard at Koffiefontein Internment Camp. Dutch books have been sent to the Nederlands Club in Cape Town, and French books to the Free French forces in hospital and in visiting warships. Since the last Report, £116 has been received for the purchase of new books. A motion to approach the Government with a view to establishing properly organized libraries for the troops is reported elsewhere in this issue.

Miss M. Ralling, South African Public Library, has succeeded Miss M. S. Bradshaw as Hon. Secretary of the Cape Town Committee.

EMENDATUM

S.A.L. 8 : 177, April, 1941. The price of *SCRIPTURE* E. and GREER, M.R. *Find it yourself* is given as 6s. 6d. This should be 4s. 0d. for the ordinary edition, and 6d. for the scholars edition, with considerable reductions for quantities for schools and other uses.

THE LIBRARY VACATION SCHOOL, DURBAN

June-July, 1940

by

Mrs. NANCY COURTNEY ACUTT

WAR clouds gathered, each hour brought worse news of battle in Europe. June 18th, when some of us were entrained for Durban, the ghastly fact was hurled at our heads—France had surrendered; France our ally: France whom we were helping with a huge expeditionary Force; France Britain's near neighbour.

Could the Library Vacation School, starting under such auspices, be successful? Never mind. Durban in June would be perfect. But the eclipse or the war had upset that equitable month and we arrived in the midst of rain, which gradually grew worse until the heavens emptied themselves over our heads in tropical profusion.

All portents and omens seemed to hinder the school. We shivered in the fine library building and were almost unable to think. An occasional uniform even in that literary portion of the Town Hall, aeroplanes circling noisily overhead, curbs painted in check patterns, for the black-outs were constant disturbers of our assumed peace. Even the staff was so depleted that Pretoria's State Librarian, Mr. M. M. Stirling, took the place of the children's director to enable her to attend some of the lectures.

But the eighteen students were keen and animated. Nothing could damp their spirits or cloud their senses. Outside events faded away. War news was forgotten. All were absorbed in the lectures given by Mr. M. M. Stirling, Mr. Percy Freer, and Professor J. P. R. Wallis in the mornings and Mnr. P. W. J. Groenewald on some afternoons.

The talks were so entrancing that the gloomy faces of our Durban friends no longer worried us.

The Town Council were as hospitable as ever and conducted tours around their fine city, as well as across the Umgeni, where cream buns were devoured with healthy appetites. Special teas were given by Mrs. Noakes and Mr. Christie.

Then we tried to understand the art of book-binding, asking innumerable questions, which were answered satisfactorily by the kindly men in charge. We swarmed over the "Tech", where the library has grown out of all knowledge and where the Dewey system was shown to interested eyes.

Dewey system—that reminds me. When Mr. Freer began his illuminating lectures he talked of the Dewey decimal system of classification. It seemed to one ignorant student that he meant duo-decimal. But after the first talk it soon appeared that this system is more fascinating than any cross-word puzzle yet devised.

Professor Wallis' talks were thrilling, to use a worn-out word. They held a breathless audience, who scribbled for dear life so that none or few of the valuable phrases should be lost. Exercise books, kindly provided, were filled to the last page, scraps of paper were borrowed, programmes used up—but all must be saved from oblivion. One must see the lively gestures, the enthusiasm, the quick actions and hear the scholarly tones and eloquent flow of one who is gifted with a lively wit and ease of expression when talking of his gods.

Meanwhile the orchestra could be heard at practice and many students had the pleasure of listening to fine music on Thursday evenings, again as the guests of Durban. The *Eroica* was a triumph to show pessimists that order would prevail in the end and that chaos could never possess this earth.

The weather cleared—war news was unnoticed to brains overcrowded with what was new matter to some of them. Photographs were taken, members gossiped and became friendly. It was even rumoured, to “lay the flattering unction on their souls”, that they had the highest record of intelligence to be found in any school in the Union. But why not? They were unamazed at this opinion.

The climax was reached when Mr. Webb¹ spoke to the students and, in doing so answered most of the questions that had disturbed librarians and readers since the outbreak of war—what is the use of books in such anxious days?

The speaker said it was at such times that one must study forms of government to discover in what manner these could be improved. Also it was necessary to divert one's thoughts and for this “escape” literature is most valuable. The mind is forced to gain contrasts and be distracted from the horrors and privations that have come to friends overseas.

Mr. Christie delighted his many friends, old as well as those newly acquired, by the charming words he spoke at the close of school. He gave as a slogan to librarians this phrase: “Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.”

Sunshine had certainly been brought to the minds of those eighteen students from out the mist of storms, beat of drums, racket of aeroplanes. For this escape we must thank those who devoted their holiday to instructions on library management, classification and the history of literature.

¹ Webb, Maurice. The Library: a spiritual power house. (In: *S.A.L.* 8: [97]–100, Jan., 1941)

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

- BUCHLER, Walter. Money in exports. London: Useful publications, [1940]. 221 p. 10/6
- Hirayama takes a chance: a Japanese romance. *Ibid.*, (1940). 316 p. 8/3.
- Sydney.** *Public Library of New South Wales.* A general introduction to library practice. Sydney: The Library, 1940. 119 f. mimeographed.
- “The manual . . . has been tested in use in the Public Library of New South Wales in its Library School as well as in short courses for teacher librarians.” *Pref.*
- School library practice: a supplement to A general introduction to library practice. *Ibid.*, 1940.
- Model school library shelf list: a list of about 2,000 titles arranged according to the D.C. classification, with authors, titles, publishers, price, series and annotations.

SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ELEVENTH VACATION SCHOOL,

CAPE TOWN, JULY, 1941

by

D. H. VARLEY

THE 11. Vacation School of the South African Library Association, happily miscalled by the Press "the Vocational School" was held at Cape Town from 7. July till 19. July, and attracted a record attendance of thirty students. This was the first time that the School had been held at the Cape, and the arrangements were worked out in co-operation with the Cape Branch of the Association and the Trustees of the South African Public Library.

Members of the School represented libraries at Bethlehem, Bloemfontein, Boksburg, Caledon, Cape Town, Carnarvon, Ermelo, Eshowe, Fort Hare, Johannesburg, Kroonstad, Ladysmith, Laingsburg, Lovedale, Maritzburg, Naboomspruit, Paarl, Potchefstroom and Pretoria.

The School was opened on 7. July in the Fairbridge Room of the South African Library by Mr. Charles Christie, President of the South African Library Association. The theme of his address was that "school education was a 'kit of tools'; it was deplorable that so much should be spent on the tools and so little on the material on which to use them in after life."

During the first week series of lectures were given in the mornings on *The Library in the world to-day*, by Mr. R. F. Immelman, Librarian of the University of Cape Town; on Library Administration, by Mr. D. H. Varley, Librarian of the South African Public Library, including a practical demonstration of binding; and on elementary Classification and Cataloguing, by Mr. Anthony Thompson, Librarian-in-Charge at Hiddingh Hall, U.C.T.

The lectures in the second week were given by Miss Elizabeth Taylor, Children's Librarian at Johannesburg, on *The Library and the Child*; by Mr. H. Holdsworth, Sub-Librarian of the University of Cape Town, on the Selection and Buying of Books, especially for small libraries, and by Mr. R. F. Robinow, on Library Publicity. A lecture was also given by Miss H.M. Austin, at the University Library on The Information File and its uses.

These lectures were designed to be as practical as possible, and were illustrated by visits to the following libraries: Library of Parliament; Jagger and Hiddingh Hall Libraries of the University of Cape Town; South African Public Library; and Wynberg Library. A visit was also paid to the Cape Archives, where Lt.-Col. Botha gave a short address. On Saturday, 12. July, a visit was arranged to Stellenbosch, where the members of the School were welcomed by Dr. Willcocks, shown round the University Library, and entertained to tea. After tea a visit was paid to the newly-built Public Library in Stellenbosch.

In addition to these visits a social programme was arranged by the Cape Branch of the S.A. Library Association. The students were entertained on the first day to a party given by Mr. & Mrs. Immelman and Mr. & Mrs. Varley, and in the second week to another given by Professor and Mrs. A. H. Murray. On 9. July, a film entertainment was given in the cinema of the Southern Life Association of Africa, at which two films of work at the Johannesburg Public Library and the colour film *The Story of the Recorded Word*, made by the South African Public Library, were shown. Several other colour films were also shown. In the second week a visit was arranged to a concert given by the Cape Recorded Music Society, and on Thursday, 17. July, the members of the School were entertained to a film show at the Colosseum Theatre by His Worship the Mayor of Cape Town, Councillor W. Brinton, and Mrs. Brinton, and afterwards to refreshments at Markham's.

In the second week of the School, a Children's Book Week had been organized on a big scale by the Trustees of the South African Public Library. The focal point was an Exhibition of Children's Books held in the Reading Hall of the Library, and opened on 14. July by Dr. de Vos Malan, Superintendent-General of Education at the Cape. The Exhibition of some 400 selected English and Afrikaans books was visited during the week and the week following by 5,000 school-children.

In addition to Miss Taylor's lectures, which were also attended by members of the general public, talks were given from the Cape Town Studio on Children's Reading by Miss Taylor in English, and Mr. Immelman in Afrikaans. A brochure on Choosing Children's Books was published by the Trustees of the South African Library in collaboration with ten Cape Town booksellers and publishers, and cyclostyled lists of children's books used in Miss Taylor's lectures were distributed free of charge to the general public.

On 18. July a special meeting in the Fairbridge Room was attended by more than 120 teachers, who were addressed on Children's Reading by Miss Taylor in English, and by Professor J. F. Burger in Afrikaans. The teachers were afterwards entertained to tea by the Trustees.

On Tuesday, 8. July, Professor W.S. Mackie, of the University of Cape Town, read an interesting paper on *Early English Libraries* to a meeting of the Cape Branch of the South African Library Association, which was attended by members of the Vacation School.

The School ended on Saturday morning, 19. July, when Professor Andrew Murray gave a valedictory address. In assessing the part that must be played by the Library in the new world of the Second Democratic Revolution, Professor Murray warned librarians of the danger to freedom in forming a library that was representative of one class or one school of thought. Declaring that even the most optimistic political thinkers now maintained that civilization could only be saved if we could restore the political and moral values now threatened, he explained how first King, then Church and then Parliament had been the guardians of individual liberty, and how the individual himself was now the sole defender of his own rights. He could defend those rights only if he knew what they were and what was the background of the social and political questions of to-day. It was for the library to provide this information, and to act as a leader of public opinion.

The organizers wish to thank the following individuals and authorities for their hospitality and co-operation: His Worship the Mayor of Cape Town; and the City Corporation; the University of Cape Town; Mr. P. Ribbink, Librarian of Parliament,

and his staff; Wynberg Public Library Committee; Dr. Willcocks and Mrs. Willcocks; Professor A. H. Mackenzie and the Library Committee at Stellenbosch; the Southern Life Association and its General Manager, Mr. J. M. Macfarlane, O.B.E.; the Chairman and Committee of the Cape Recorded Music Society; Lt.-Col. C. Graham Botha, Chief Archivist, and his staff; and the Trustees of the South African Public Library, through whose courtesy the School was held in the Fairbridge Room.

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
JUNE TO JULY, 1941

Resolved:

*Transvaal Library Advisory Committee*¹

That Mr. Charles Christie be the Association's nominee on the Transvaal Library Advisory Committee.

Library Organizer

That the attention of the Provincial Secretary be drawn to the necessity for the Provincial Administration to appoint a Provincial Library Organizer, in terms of the Inter-departmental Report, and that in this connexion the name of Mr. E. A. Borland of Germiston be recommended for the consideration of the Administration.

General Library Conference

A. *General Conference.* That there be no conference this year.

B. *Meeting of Council Members.* That the annual Council Meeting be held in Johannesburg in October, 1941.²

Index to South African Periodicals

That Miss Mews' resignation from the joint-editorship be accepted with regret.

That Miss Anna Smith be appointed as Business Manager of the Index.

Minutes of Examinations Sub-Committee

That half-fees for candidates undergoing re-examination be abolished, [to operate with examinations commencing in December, 1941.]

Branch Representation on Council

That each Branch be asked to nominate as its official representative on the Council one of its members who is already a Council Member.

Libraries for the Army

(a) That the S.A. Library Association, having sponsored the collection and distribution of recreational literature to the Fighting Forces, now calls upon the Government to build on this foundation by providing and adequately maintaining properly organized library services in military camps and establishments throughout the Union, under the supervision of a trained librarian.

(b) That a deputation from the Council approach Major E. G. Malherbe, and with his co-operation seek an interview with the Defence authorities to explain and enlarge upon the above proposal.

Fact Finding Committee—Terms of Reference

That the Council take immediate action to urge the Province(s) to include consideration for library facilities in the terms of reference of the Fact Finding Committee decided upon in January, 1941.

¹ Members:— Dr. E. G. Malherbe, *Chairman*; Mrs E. O'Connor; Major E. W. Hunt; Mr. M. G. Nicolson; Mr. C. Christie; Mr. H. Vos; Mr. M. M. Stirling, *ex officio*. (*Province of Transvaal official gazette*, no. 1707, 1. October 1941: 5).

² Date since changed to 3.-4. November.

EXAMINATION RESULTS, JUNE, 1941

ELEMENTARY EXAMINATION

Afrikaans Literature (B)

Cynthia Merrington, Johannesburg Public Library
Alida Laurent Terpend, Johannesburg Public Library
Rachel Wilhelmina Zaaïman, Johannesburg Public Library

English Literature (A)

Georgina de Cuevas, Institute for Medical Research, Johannesburg
Mary Doyle, Boksburg Public Library
Fay Gayle Friedgut, Johannesburg Public Library
Natalie Field Leigh, Johannesburg Public Library
Joyce Evelyn Scholefield, Johannesburg Public Library
Daphne Smith, Johannesburg Public Library
Alida Laurent Terpend, Johannesburg Public Library

Classification, Cataloguing and Routine

M. Austin, Johannesburg Public Library
Elizabeth Stella Innes, Johannesburg Public Library
Karlton C. Johnson, Johannesburg Public Library
Edna Khomo, Fort Hare College
Natalie Field Leigh, Johannesburg Public Library
F. Marks, Johannesburg Public Library
Maureen Ruth Moore, Johannesburg Public Library
Thelma Perdrix Morrish, Johannesburg Public Library
Joyce Evelyn Scholefield, Johannesburg Public Library
Daphne Smith, Johannesburg Public Library
Alida Laurent Terpend, Johannesburg Public Library
Margaret Trobridge, Johannesburg Public Library
B. Zilberg, Huguenot University College

Whole Elementary Examination

The following have now completed the whole Elementary Examination :

Fay Gayle Friedgut, Johannesburg Public Library
Cynthia Merrington, Johannesburg Public Library
Alida Laurent Terpend, Johannesburg Public Library

INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION

Classification

Agnes Mary Gentles, Witwatersrand University Library

Cataloguing

Jacqueline Hope Ogilvie, Johannesburg Public Library

FINAL EXAMINATION

Bibliography

Joyce Natalie Norman, Johannesburg Public Library

DECEMBER EXAMINATIONS, 1941

(a) *Closing Date for Entry*

Candidates are reminded that they "shall apply to the Secretary* for admission to the examinations not later than 15. October... A form of entry will be provided and must be returned together with the prescribed fee not later than 15. November..." (*Scheme of Examinations*, para. 7)

(b) *Dates of Examinations*

The examinations will commence on 1. December.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Intending candidates for the Correspondence Courses next year should send in their applications to the Honorary Secretary* not later than 31. December, 1941.

N.B. The offering of Correspondence Courses in both English and Afrikaans in the Elementary and Intermediate subjects is dependent upon a minimum enrolment of *four* students in *each* language, respectively. In the Final Administration and Bibliography courses a minimum of *three* students is required in each language, respectively.

(BRITISH) LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER EXAMINATIONS, 1940

INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION

Part 1 Classification and Part 2 Cataloguing : Miss M. Whiteley, State Library, Pretoria

Part 1 Classification : Miss M. Kinishev, University of Cape Town Library

FINAL EXAMINATION

Part 1 English Literary History : Mr. A. Thompson, University of Cape Town Library

SUB-COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY PUBLICITY

LIBRARY POSTER

The two prizes of £2. 2s. each in the Library Poster competition were awarded to :—

Mr. K. Pammer, Heathfield, Cape (Afrikaans)

Miss M. Kussel, Port Elizabeth (English)

The following received honourable mention :—

Mr. L. Van Rensburg, Krugersdorp ; and Miss Vivien Rippon, Grahamstown (Afrikaans) ; and Miss E. E. B. Dempsey, Fish Hoek, and Mr. J. E. Parminter, Rosebank, Cape (English).

These were the best posters submitted but none was judged entirely suitable for the purpose in view, and the Committee is publishing another design.

119 designs by 76 contestants from 37 towns were received.

Copies of the poster agreed upon for publication are now available from Mr. Karlton C. Johnson, P.O. Box 3082, Johannesburg, at 8d. each.

*Hon. Examinations Secretary, Mr. E. A. Borland, Public Library, P.O. Box 246, Germiston.

SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S LIBRARY SECTION

Vol. 2

South African Library Association, Transvaal Branch

No. 2

CLASSIFICATION FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES

by

M. W. WHITELEY

State Library, Pretoria

MANY school librarians, reading the title of this article, may ask, in the American phrase, "What's in it for me?" So before going on to the discussion of how classification should be done, I should like to put forward a few reasons for doing it.

Classification, as the word is generally used in a library, means the division into groups, by subject, of what are known as "non-fiction" books. The question of whether fiction should be grouped in any way is a vexed one which I do not propose to deal with here. Some librarians advocate division into groups suitable for different ages, or the separation of boys' and girls' stories, and so on, but the division of non-fiction is a far more pressing matter, and one more difficult to handle.

The primary purpose of classification is to make the books easier to find. It is obvious that any large library which failed to divide its stock in some way would never find any book of which the author and title were not known. There would be no hope of helping the inquirer for "something about wireless", or "a book on butterflies". It is just this sort of inquiry which is so common in children's libraries.

At this point, many school librarians may say, with some reason, "But I have not got a large library. In fact, I haven't enough non-fiction to be worth dividing", or "But I know my small stock inside out, and the children can always ask me for what they want". To them, the answer is that unless they are proposing never to increase and develop their stock, they will need some kind of classification eventually, and it is easier to do soon than late.

In this connexion I would like to record a conviction that school libraries do tend to pay insufficient attention to the building up of a good non-fiction stock, under the impression that children are almost exclusively interested in stories of one kind and another, when in point of fact there is a quantity of other types of material which, once introduced, would be popular.

This brings us to another reason for attempting classification—one which is bound up with the whole question of the purpose of the library. This purpose is, or should be, to do something more than supply the child with recreational reading which may, at the same time, improve his spoken and written language. The librarian's aim, no less than that of the school itself, is surely to turn out a child who, in addition to a certain accumulated stock of knowledge, is anxious to go on thinking and learning for himself, and knows how to do so. That, far more than the passing of examinations, however necessary they may be, is true education.

If we are to teach the child this attitude to books and knowledge, we must, in addition to giving him books, teach him how to find what he wants. If, at school, he gets

into the habit of asking the librarian for everything, he will be discouraged, when he leaves school, to find that in the public library, however willing the staff may be to help him, he must, in the last resort, help himself. Then, lost in an apparently trackless waste of books, he may well lose interest in whatever subject he was pursuing. But if he has been accustomed to grouping subjects in his mind—in itself a valuable exercise in clear thinking—and to seeing books grouped by subject on shelves, he will have some basis for learning to make full use of his public library.

This does not mean that the value of personal guidance in the library can be underrated: it cannot. It means that personal guidance should lead the child on to explore for himself, instead of becoming a substitute for such exploration.

Children are, in fact, often independent by nature. They may look upon a book found for them, even if they have asked for help, as something they ought to read, and therefore undesirable, while they will cheerfully read the same book if they have found it themselves. Such independence is to be encouraged, both because it is good for the child, and because it sets a harassed librarian with a roomful of children free to deal with others more in need of her help. If the library is classified, the child's task is made very much easier. Instead of having to plod through the non-fiction section looking for a book about aeroplanes—a task which, even in a small library, may blunt the edge of his enthusiasm—he can go straight to the spot, or can be taught to do so.

It may seem that there is little difference between the librarian in the classified library, who shows little Tommy where the books about engines are kept, and explains the symbols that indicate them, and her counterpart in the unclassified library who produces three or four books from a non-fiction corner and says "Here's what you want". The difference may, to start with, be slight, but to Tommy's mind it is a real one. In the second case he has been a passive spectator: in the first he has helped to discover his own book. Next time he will find the shelf without help, and when he has observed that railway engines and aeroplane building come close together, and that both come near to science and mathematics books, he has learnt a valuable lesson.

I am not suggesting that the second procedure, that in the unclassified library, is necessarily wrong. It is extremely valuable, and may prove the only way of holding a lazy or backward child's attention long enough to get him started on a book. My point is that it should, if little Tommy is to become a library user after he has left school, lead on to the first method; and further, that Tommy must learn where to find his books not only by remembering where teacher showed him, but by perceiving a method in the arrangement of the library which he can apply, in principle, elsewhere.

Last, but by no means least, it has been proved by practical experience in schools both here and overseas that some kind of classification is essential to the proper working of the library. It has a practical value in the running of the library, in that it helps both the children and the librarian, and a value as a factor in the education of the child, both in the present and in the future.

(to be concluded)

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK IN CAPE TOWN

Five thousand school children, as well as teachers, parents, librarians, and others interested in children's reading visited the exhibition of children's books held at the South African Public Library in connexion with the Children's Book Week held in Cape Town from 14. to 19. July.

The "week" was organized by the South African Public Library in collaboration with the South African Library Association, the publishers and booksellers of Cape Town, the Cape Education Department, the Radio and the Press. It was inaugurated by Dr. W. de Vos Malan, Superintendent-General of Education for the Cape, who dwelt on the need in South Africa for research on reading abilities.

The exhibition comprised about 400 Afrikaans and English children's books of yesterday and to-day, and the public were able to handle specimens of the fine work being produced in the sphere of children's books at the present time. In addition the leading booksellers arranged displays in their own windows.

The Book Week coincided with the second week of the South African Library Association's Vacation School for Librarians, and the lectures at the School included a series on *The Library and the child* by Miss Elizabeth Taylor, Children's Librarian at the Johannesburg Public Library. Among other things she stressed the importance of guiding the child's reading habits from an early age, and of exercising the greatest care in the selection of books for children of all ages.

One afternoon a special meeting for teachers was held, and was attended by a large number of people, including many from the country districts. Miss Taylor addressed the meeting in English and Professor J. F. Burger in Afrikaans. Miss Taylor emphasized the necessity of teaching children to regard library books as tools for developing their knowledge by research. In this respect school libraries in South Africa have a very long way to go. Professor Burger referred to the fact that so many Afrikaans books were written almost exclusively for examination set work purposes. Far more Afrikaans school books were wanted which would give real pleasure to the youthful reader.

The Trustees of the S.A.P.L. in collaboration with the booksellers and publishers also issued an attractive pamphlet on *Choosing children's books/Hoe om kinderboeke uit te kies*. This contains a Foreword by Dr. de Vos Malan; *Some outstanding children's books*, by Elizabeth Taylor; *Die kinderverhaal*, deur Dr. I. D. Du Plessis; and *Hints on choosing children's books*, by Douglas Varley. The last article contains a useful list of *Aids to the selection of children's books*. The pamphlet was distributed free to all European and selected non-European schools, libraries and training colleges in the Cape Province.

Periodicals in schools. A notice in the current issue of *Education*, the official organ of the South African Teachers' Association, urges principals of schools to display suitable periodicals and comics in their school libraries "to counteract the evil influence of undesirable publications which are now too readily available to children." Teachers in public library areas are asked to appeal to Library Boards to take similar action. (*Cape times*, 20. August 1941.)

Rural schools library. At a meeting of the Worcester A.C.V.V. Miss S. Jordaan reported that the association's circulating library now had 1,250 books, of which 550 were Afrikaans and 700 English. These were made up in parcels of 50, and circulated free among farm and other schools in the district. The schools contributed towards the library by means of concerts and other efforts. (*Cape times*, 22. August, 1941.)

MEETINGS OF THE SECTION

The fifth and sixth general meetings of the School and Children's Library Section were held at the Girls' High School, Barnato Park, and the Sir John Adamson Junior High School, Turffontein respectively. It is regrettable, but nevertheless understandable, that when the meetings are arranged to take place in suburban schools the attendance falls off—particularly so as the school libraries of the two schools in question are well worthy of inspection and are fine examples of what good school libraries should be.

The meeting at Barnato Park Girls' High School was addressed by Miss Driver, who described the growth of the Library and its working arrangements. Miss Joyce Norman read a most instructive paper on *Picture Collections* at the Turffontein meeting, which offered inspiration to both teachers and librarians present. The verbal book reviews are now a useful item of every agenda.

The Annual General Meeting was announced for 22. October in the Johannesburg Public Library.

STATUS OF LIBRARIANS

"The librarian should be regarded as a public servant of high importance, not as a mere minister of amenities that can be dispensed with in the more momentous hours of the people's destiny, and all possible private and public support should be given to enable this vital national service to be maintained." (Leader, *Times literary Supplement*, 39. year, no. 1012: 411, 24. August, 1940.)

CHILDREN'S BOOKS WITH A GEOGRAPHICAL OR HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

by

Mrs. M. M. BARNES and Miss L. E. TAYLOR

(concluded from p. 32)

POLAND			
BIENIASZ, Josef.	Kuba and the wolves.	Muller.	5. 0
Ages 10-12.			
HUNGARY			
SEREDY, Kate.	The good master.	Harrap.	6. 0
Farm life in Hungary, beautifully illustrated by the author. Ages 10-12.			
FRANCE			
PERKINS, Lucy Fitch.	The French twins.	Cape.	3. 6
Ages 8-10.			
ITALY			
MACDONALD, E. B. & DALRYMPLE, J.	Raphael in Italy.	Wells, Gardner.	2. 6
Ages 11-13.			
CANARY ISLANDS			
ANDERSEN, Lis.	Lis sails to Teneriffe.	Routledge.	3. 6
Ages 9-11.			

NORWAY

- PERKINS, Lucy Fitch. The Norwegian twins. Cape. 3. 6
Ages 8-10.
- TURNGREN, Annette. Flaxen braids. Nelson. 5. 0
Norway two generations ago. Ages 10-12.

SWEDEN

- LAGERLÖF, Selma. The wonderful adventures of Nils. Grosset. 6. 0
- MACDONALD, E. B. & DALRYMPLE, J. Gerda in Sweden. Wells, Gardner. 2. 6

DENMARK

- ANDERSEN, Lis. Lis at home in Denmark. Routledge. 5. 0
For rather older children than those who enjoyed the two earlier "Lis" books.
- MICHAELIS, Karin. Bibi. Allen & Unwin. 5. 0
A little Danish girl travels in her own country. Ages 11-12.

HOLLAND

- PERKINS, Lucy Fitch. The Dutch twins. Cape. 3. 6
Ages 8-10.

BELGIUM

- PERKINS, Lucy Fitch. The Belgian twins. Cape. 3. 6
Ages 8-10.

SWITZERLAND

- PERKINS, Lucy Fitch. The Swiss twins. Cape. 3. 6
Ages 8-10.
- WILLIAMS, Ursula Moray. Elaine of La Signe. Harrap. 3. 6
Ages 11-12.

ASIA**CHINA**

- PERKINS, Lucy Fitch. The Chinese twins. Cape. 3. 6
Ages 8-10.
- ROBERTS, C. E. Schoolboy refugee. Lutterworth. 4. 6
Ages 11-12.
- VARE, Daniele. The Gate of happy sparrows. Methuen. 3. 6
Ages 13-14.

TIBET

- LIDE, A. A. Yinka-Tu, The yak. Viking. 6. 0
Beautifully illustrated story of Asia, for very young readers.
Ages 8-10.

JAPAN

- PERKINS, Lucy Fitch. The Japanese twins. Cape. 3. 6
Ages 8-10.

PERSIA

- SINGER, C. & BALDRIDGE, C. Le R. Ali lives in Iran. Holiday House. 6. 0
Ages 9-11.

AFRICA**EGYPT**

- MACDONALD, E. B. & DALRYMPLE, J. Hassan in Egypt. Wells, Gardner. 2. 6
Ages 11-13.

KENYA & EAST AFRICA

- BADEN-POWELL OF GILWELL, Robert Stephenson Smyth, 1st baron.
African Adventures.
Birds and beasts in Africa.
More sketches of Kenya. Macmillan. each 4. 6
Brightly written tales suitable for ages 8-10.
- PATTERSON, J.H. Man-eaters of Tsavo. Macmillan. 6. 0
Ages 12-14.

SOUTH AFRICA

- CAMPBELL, G. G. & GRAHAM, Eleanor. Adventure in Natal. Pitman. 3. 6
Ages 11-13.
- HALE, E. Tales of Tiny Tongaat. R.T.S. each 2. 6
Adventures of Little Kumalo.
Stories, laid in South Africa, for young readers ages 8-10.
- MARSHALL, K. David goes to Zululand. Nelson. 5. 0
Ages 10-12.

AMERICA**AMERICAN INDIANS**

- HARRINGTON, M. R. Dickon among the Lenape Indians. Bell. 7. 6
Story of a boy who is shipwrecked, saved by Red Indians, and kept by them until a
rescue ship arrives.
- PERKINS, Lucy Fitch. The Indian twins. Cape. 3. 6
Ages 8-10.
- SULLIVAN, A. Brother Blackfoot. Pitman. 3. 6
Ages 11-13.

CANADA

- NORTH, Robert C. Bob North starts exploring.
Bob North by canoe and portage.
Bob North with dog team and Indians. Putnam. each 6. 0
Written by a boy in his 'teens. Exploration in Canada. Ages 12-14.

MEXICO

- ARMER, L. A. Waterless mountain.
The Forest pool. Longmans. each 6. 0
Strikingly illustrated. Ages 11-14.
- MACDONALD, E. B. & DALRYMPLE, J. Manuel in Mexico. Wells, Gardner. 2. 6
Ages 11-13.

AUSTRALIA

- STRANG, Herbert. Adventures in the bush. Hodder. 3. 6
Ages 12-14.

ARCTIC & ANTARCTIC REGIONS**NORTH POLE**

- PEARY, M. A. Snow baby. Routledge. 3. 6
Polar exploration, written by the daughter of Peary, who first reached the North Pole.
Ages 10-12.
- PERKINS, Lucy Fitch. The Eskimo twins. Cape. 3. 6
Ages 8-10.
- SULLIVAN, A. Brother Eskimo. Pitman. 3. 6

SOUTH POLE

- AVERY, H. No surrender. Nelson. 3. 6
The story of Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole. Ages 12-14.

STATUS OF LIBRARIANS

"Nothing would so justify the professional status of librarians as a notable increase in the number of capable administrators who are also notable bibliographers."

(*Library journal*, 1. November, 1940 : 911)

The Link (published by the Old Students' Association of the London School of Librarianship), no. 57, 31. May, 1941, contains a thought-provoking article on *High qualifications but low salaries: causes and cures suggested*, by Alwyn Andrew.